'Clear the shelter' and house a furry friend. PAGE 3
Wetter weather to persist into the weekend. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 174

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY AUGUST 30, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Jeju offered rate subsidy, T'way and Asiana want in

Palacios

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has committed to providing a rate subsidy to Jeju Air but has yet to make payments.

In addition, Asiana Airlines and T'Way Air Co., Ltd have inquired whether they can get in on the rate subsidy offered to Jeju by the central government.

See JEJU on Page 4

NEW ROTA OPT FACILITY PSS

The new Rota Office of Pupil Transportation facility was inaugurated last Friday, Aug. 23. Funded under the school district's share of the American Rescue Plan Act, the event was attended by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, acting Rota mayor Jim Michael Atalig, Sinapalo Elementary School principal Daisy Quitugua, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School principal Annette Calvo, Rota PSS OPT bus lead Larry Hocog. and contractor Jesus Dimaala, among others.

CHCC requests another MOU on utility arrears

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has asked the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for another memorandum of understanding in regard to payment of utility arrears following expiration of a previous MOU.

Yesterday, the CUC board met to discuss a number of agenda items, one of the items being CHCC's payment status.

However, according to CUC executive director Kevin Watson, CHCC has submitted a letter requesting another MOU

See CHCC on Page 4

Terlaje

RACQUEL FLOYD

Student and Support Services senior director for Yvonne Pangelinan, left, and CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management PIO Bernard Villagomez answer questions during a media briefing for the KONFITMA 2024 full-scale exercise yesterday at the HSEM Emergency Operation Center on Capitol Hill.

KONFITMA 2024 to involve 100 participants

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

A hundred participants from various local government agencies will take part in next week's KONFITMA 2024 full-scale exercise, according to the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency.

HSEM public information officer Bernard Villagomez revealed this yesterday during a media briefing where he was joined by Public School System senior director for Student and Support Services Yvonne Pangelinan

See KONFITMA on Page 4

Another gas theft at Payless Truckload Store

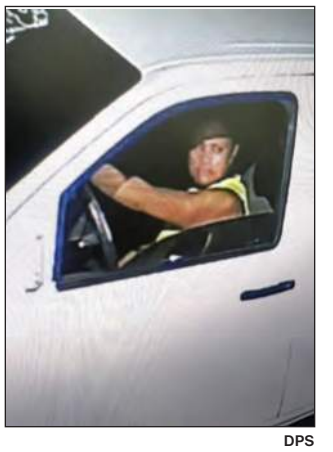
By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Yet another disturbing gas theft was reported to the Department of Public Safety with Payless/Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa this time falling victim to fuel fiends.

DPS confirmed that the incident involved the deliberate puncturing of a delivery van's gas tank, resulting in a significant fuel leak.

According to DPS, the crime occurred on the evening of Aug. 19, 2024, but was only discovered after the vehicle

See THEFT on Page 4


DPS

Surveillance footage captures the face of an individual involved in the recent gas theft at the Payless/Truckload store in Chalan Kanoa.

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Marianas participated in the 26th Annual Nippon Domannaka Festival in Nagoya, Japan on Aug. 23-25, 2024, performing indigenous Carolinian and Chamorro dances for nearly 2 million enthusiastic viewers at the event and around the world.
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BUSINESS
McDonald's of Saipan proudly announces the achievements of its dedicated crew members from the Garapan and Chalan Lau Lau restaurants for the second quarter of 2024.
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LIFE & STYLE
Rapper, singer, songwriter, businesswoman, hot girl summer purveyor and now... award show host? Megan Thee Stallion will host the 2024 MTV Video Music Awards.
PAGE 15

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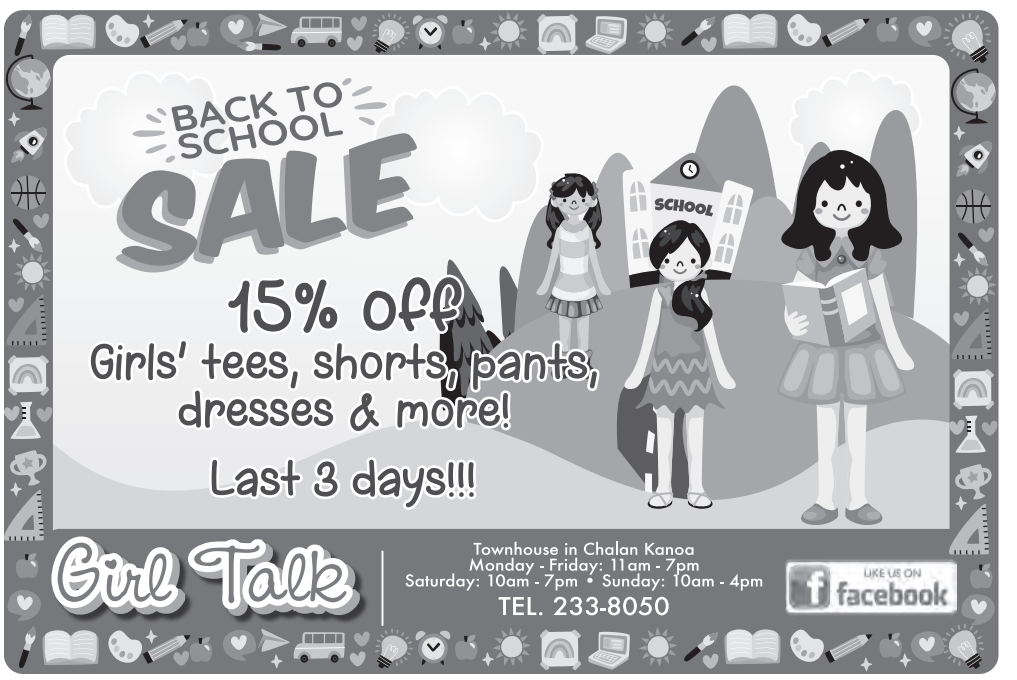

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Local

'Clear the shelter' and house a furry friend

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's National Clear the Shelter Month, and with dozens of little furry friends looking for a home, the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program and the Saipan Humane Society are partnering up to make pet adoption more feasible the next two weeks.

Starting this week until Sept. 10, anyone who goes to the animal shelter in As Perdido to adopt a dog will receive a goodie bag. The goodie bag is full of essentials like a collar, leash, poop bags, a portable water bowl, and food. The items can be picked up immediately at the dog control shelter upon adoption.

In a conversation with SHS founder and president Lauren Cabrera, she said that alongside the goodie bag, adopters can bring their new pal over to SHS' clinic in Garapan clinic for a free Seresto collar, which will provide eight months of protection against fleas, ticks, and mange. And should the owners want it, the adopted pets will also be guaranteed a spot in SHS' upcoming spay/neuter clinic in October, with a $25 discount for the procedure.

"Basically, it was National Dog Day this week and it's also National Clear the Shelter Month across the country," said Cabrera. "Animal shelters are trying to incentivize people to adopt instead of buying or breeding dogs because there's already so many dogs that need a home and they're wonderful. So that's what we're doing here."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Saipan Humane Society's Lauren Cabrera cuddles 2-month-old puppies Heartley and Haleighny last Wednesday at the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program Office in As Perdido.

Cabrera added a heartfelt thank you to the Banfield Foundation for generously donating the collars to ensure that pets in the community get the best start with their new families.

As of now SHS has over 15 dogs up for adoption.

"Right now, there are two very, very healthy young puppies. And then there's about like 10 or 15 adult dogs as well, that are really friendly. We evaluate their behavior to make sure they're not going to be dangerous dogs."

She added that with so many dogs coming to the shelter they do have a variety that will hopefully appeal to individuals looking for a certain type of dog.

"All the dogs up for adoption have been dewormed. If they're on the adoption row they have been dewormed and they've had flea tick medicine already."

Dog Control Program manager Martin Pangelinan encourages the community in adopting a pet at the shelter.

"Our pets at the shelter have been rescued and cared for, with the hope that they will find a forever home where they can provide love and companionship," he said, adding the adage "From shelter to a home their journey begins."

He added, "We would like to inform the community that the Dog Control Program has revised its hours of operation to include Saturdays from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Therefore, the Dog Control Program hours of operation are from Monday through Saturday, 7:30am-4:30pm."

Cabrera added that this would be very helpful for those who may not be able to stop by the shelter during weekdays. She also added that she would like the community to know if anyone is missing their dog, try checking the shelter.

"If their dog goes missing, they should come to the shelter because I think a lot of people just assume their dog got poisoned and sometimes, they're here. We do get a lot of dogs in the shelter that have collars. Sometimes we'll post them on social media and hope the owner sees. But the dogs, some of them are missing their owners. So, if your dog was missing, come check here. And just remember that if you have a dog, either tie them up or keep them contained because you don't want them to be like a road hazard or a danger to the community or hurt themselves."

CUC closed in observance of Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. offices and Customer Service Centers are closed on Monday, Sept. 2, 2024.

For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

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Wetter weather to persist into the weekend

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service based off of Tiyan, Guam reports that wet season pattern will persist across the Marianas through the weekend.

According to the NWS' regional weather outlook report, light trades and fair-weather conditions persist across the Marianas this week.

"Wetter weather exists eastward from a broad circulation centered southwest of Chuuk to the Marshall Islands. Moderate trades and sunny skies prevail across the Marianas so expect only spotty showers through Thursday. A weak circulation in Chuuk State will pass south of Guam later this week, bringing a higher chance of showers to the Marianas Friday. Winds across the region will shift to the south over the weekend, due to possible weather development in the Philippine Sea. This could also generate a wetter weather pattern this weekend into next week," said NWS.

For Yap and Palau, a weak circulation to the east will shift toward Palau and Yap, bringing wetter weather into the weekend.

"Light and variable winds through Saturday will shift to the southwest and monsoon-like by Sunday into early next week," said NWS.

For Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Majuro, a wetter weather pattern is generating showers and thunderstorms across much of the region.

"A series of surface troughs will push westward with improved weather conditions around the end of the week. Moderate to fresh trades will bring more showers early next week to the eastern FSM and the Marshalls.

Kotten Tinian closed Aug. 29-30

The Supreme Court announced that Kotten Tinian will be closed from Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024 to Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, due to administrative matters. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024.

While facilities are closed, Judiciary personnel may be activated for emergency and essential services. Bail, family protection, emergency, and time-sensitive hearings may be set as necessary.

Please visit the Judiciary's website at www.nmijudiciary.gov for court information.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the following Supreme Court clerks of court:

- Judy T. Aldan, Esq.
  (670) 236-9715
  judy.aldan@nmijudiciary.gov
- Patrick V. Diaz
  (670) 235-4258 or 236-9783
  patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.gov. ***(PR)***

PET OF THE WEEK

Heartley

This is Heartley and she's currently looking for a family to call her own. She and her sister Haleighny are both healthy girls looking forward to have a forever home soon.

For inquiries about Heartley or other furbabies up for adoption as well as needed veterinary services, reach out to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipanhumanesociety.org or WhatsApp (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society and her team, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. ***(PR)***

SHS

Two-month-old puppy Heartley leans in for a kiss at the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program shelter.

JEJU

From page 1

Last July 24, Palacios sent a letter to Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Joe Ayuyu committing the central government to reimbursing the differential between old and new rates invoiced to Jeju Air from October 2023 to May 2024.

According to a breakdown from CPA, the invoice amount billed to Jeju Air reflecting the new rates is equivalent to $2,098,478.15.

When calculated based on CPA's old rates, the invoice billed was $1,133,009.36.

For Jeju not to pay the invoice based on the new rates (as implemented last October 2023), the central government must reimburse CPA and pay the difference of $965,468.79 as committed by Palacios.

However, in a letter addressed to Palacios from CPA dated Aug. 21, the promised reimbursement has yet to be paid to CPA.

"As the fiscal year approaches its end, CPA finds itself at a substantial deficit. Therefore, CPA respectfully requests an expected timeframe for the assured reimbursement," said CPA executive director Leo Tudela.

In addition, Tudela said Asiana and T'way have expressed interest in availing of the rate subsidy offered to Jeju.

"Asiana Airlines and T'way Air have inquired whether they may avail of the same offer as Jeju Airlines. Without similar assurances for other airlines, CPA must start collecting on the unpaid balances, in the near future," said Tudela.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, back in September 2023, the previous CPA board adopted a new rate methodology that reflected a 90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal rental fees which makes up CPA's fiscal year 2024 budget.

The increase took effect in October 2023.

With the adopted budget, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main terminal went up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals went up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA charges international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand lbs of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01. As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase brings landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

CHCC

From page 1

to address its outstanding arrears.

The board asked Watson to respond to the letter.

Saipan Tribune has reached out to CHCC for a statement on the matter, but CHCC has yet to issue an official statement as of press time.

In 2023, CUC signed an MOU with CHCC in which CHCC agreed to pay $525,000 a month to address over $53 million in utility arrears.

In a previous interview with CUC official Betty Terlaje, she shared that CHCC's MOU with CUC expired last May.

Terlaje, during the interview, said in order to address arrears reflective of utility usage increase, a new memorandum of understanding with CHCC needs to be executed.

Up until the MOU's expiration, Terlaje said CHCC had been making good on their monthly payments pursuant to the MOU they've agreed to.

Unfortunately, Terlaje added, CHCC's usage has gone up and the MOU only reflected CHCC's average prior to the MOU.

Fortunately, Terlaje said CUC is determined to work with agencies like CHCC to resolve arrears as CUC is dependent on these payments.

"Our board has been very adamant and has made very clear that it's not fair if other entities pay their bills while other agencies are given this long-standing payment plan. Although when the arrears are this high, I feel that we have to work with these agencies to see how we can resolve it and hopefully, moving forward they will pay all their current bills because CUC is very dependent on these payments. Otherwise, we will keep going backwards and we will keep finding ourselves in this situation where we are struggling to keep the power plant going," she said.

THEFT

From page 1

was towed to a repair shop. Upon further inspection, it became clear that the gas tank had been intentionally damaged. The business' surveillance footage from the store revealed that the culprits, who were seen carrying gas containers, loaded the stolen fuel into a white Nissan Frontier. A red Toyota Tacoma was also seen interacting with the occupants of the Frontier, suggesting possible coordination between the vehicles.

DPS has released a still image of the driver of the Nissan Frontier and is urging the public to come forward with any information that could help identify the suspects.

As for the other recent cases of gas thefts and the Sunday stabbing at the Flamingo Tavern in Garapan, police shared that there are no updates as of yet, but the cases remain under investigation.

DPS encourages those who know any information regarding any of these cases to contact the Criminal Investigation Bureau at (670) 664-9042, DPS headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous.

KONFITMA

From page 1

at the HSEM Emergency Operations Center on Capitol Hill.

Villagomez said this year's KONFITMA will see an increase in first responder as shown by the 100 participants of the Sept. 3 and 4 drills. Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Public School System, and the Department of Public Safety make up the bulk of the agencies involved in KONFITMA 2024.

"So, we just want to reassure them that this is part of the exercise and there should not be a concern if a real-world work situation were to happen during the exercise," said Villagomez.

He added that they have been conducting the exercise for a long time and it was only paused during COVID-19 before resuming in 2023. The exercise is meant to test the capabilities of CNMI government agencies in real-world scenarios and it's in collaboration with Guam National Guard 94th WMD-CST and Wisconsin National Guard 54TH WMD-CST.

KONFITMA 2024 starts on Sept. 3 with an active shooter exercise beginning 9:30am at Kagman High School. The scenario will trigger a lockdown for multiple schools—KHS, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, and Kagman Elementary School.

It will be followed with hostage and active shooter scenarios at the former Kagman Juvenile Detention Center, decontamination and mass care at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp to test the hospital's capabilities for mass casualties and decontamination with their hazmat unit, and then will go back to Kagman Juvenile Detention for the Hazmat and CBRNE.

The Hazmat and CBRNE activity is where the CNMI Hazardous Material Response team will work with the 94th CST and the 54th CST to see how they will respond to a chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and explosive situation, but the emphasis is more on the chemical situation.

Meanwhile, Pangelinan said PSS' participation will help them assess physical and psychological safety, messaging, and recovery reunification. She explained that the reunification process involves returning students to their parents after the crisis. She also added that effective communication is crucial during drills and real-life crises

Pangelinan mentioned that only affected schools will participate, while Head Start centers will not be involved, and reminders and updates about the upcoming school drills will be sent to families before and during the event. She emphasized children's safety as she advised the families not to come to school during the drill. Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss the coming drills with their children and address any concerns or special needs with the school beforehand.

Previous prank calls incidents were also discussed during the media briefing, wherein Pangelinan said that prank calls at schools can have a serious consequence, including federal offenses and acts of terrorism. She added that students should think carefully before making prank calls, as they may face legal consequences.

According to Pangelinan, last year there were several prank calls involving one school, which were promptly addressed using GPS and school staff.

The chlorine and CBRNE incident at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. storage unit on Sept. 4 will conclude KONFITMA 2024.

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Rayphand winds down term as OVR director

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

"Trying to wrap up my final days of work," said James "Jim" Rayphand as his resignation as Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director takes effect today, Aug. 30.

His resignation as OVR director comes after he submitted his candidacy for U.S. delegate in the 2024 general elections on Nov. 5.

Rayphand was busy clearing up his workload the past few weeks, which made him not attend the ballot selection at the Commonwealth Election Commission on Aug. 20. He had his campaign treasurer represent him.

"I only heard about the schedule the day before and I hadn't requested for leave, so I asked my friend and campaign treasurer, John Cabrera, to represent our team...John drew No. 4, so I should be No. 4 on the ballot," said Rayphand.

According to Rayphand, he pondered the idea of running for Congress for months leading up to the decision.

"But I only made the definitive, final decision to jump into the race approximately one week before the submission deadline with the election commission. We started and were able to collect well over the needed number of signatures for our petition to get on the ballot within that time thanks to all willing to lend their signatures to the process and to my closest family and friends who help to collect them as such."

Rayphand

Rayphand, who is running as an independent candidate, expressed his strong belief in being free from party politics.

"I like being able to say what I feel needs to be said without concern for, need to tow any party lines and I particularly like being able to speak out against or in support of candidates based on their individual stances and my direct impressions of them regardless of party affiliations."

He added that he has the requisite experience, mindful understanding, and proven track record of what it takes to effectively run an office for, by, and for the people of the CNMI.

Rayphand primarily hopes to bring added choice for the voters, a choice that is reflective of factions within our island community that may not otherwise be represented by my fellow candidates.

The 52-year-old Rayphand is a father of four Indigenous children of the CNMI.

Rayphand has earned two masters degrees in Education, one with an emphasis on Administration and Supervision from the University of Guam and another with a major in English from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia.

Aside from various side jobs and various challenges over the years, he eventually became a teacher and school administrator at San Vicente Elementary School. He advocates for people with disabilities and oversaw federal grant programs as the former director of Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.

He became a small business owner between 2020 to 2022 for which he spent about a year as a full-time commercial fisherman on Saipan. He was appointed member of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' Cabinet as OVR director in February,2023.

Rayphand's platforms include economic prosperity, educational excellence, domestic security, and cultural preservation. Bearing in mind that these issues dovetail and are interwoven with each other, and cannot be seen as standalone issues, he said.

Asked about his plans after Aug. 30,"I'll likely be resorting to night fishing as a source of income during this time and immediately after the election—and, hopefully I can get to the work of the people in Washington, D.C. come January," said Rayphand.

Saipan Mayor's Office, EHDP to conduct cleanup of Tanapag Cemetery

The Saipan Mayor's Office and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health Disease Prevention will collaborate to conduct a cleanup of Tanapag Cemetery and invites families of buried love ones to join.

The cleanup of the Tanapag Cemetery will be on Sept. 7, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho is calling on the families who have loved ones buried in the cemetery to join in the cleanup effort.

"This cleanup is about honoring our departed loved ones and maintaining the cleanliness of our sacred spaces," he said.

He encourages community members to join this public-government efforts to beautify our cemeteries. The cleanup will also allow Tanapag residents to get a head start and prepare for the upcoming All Souls Day.

Those families or individuals who wish to participate in the cleanup effort must contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208 so as to help MOS Staff calculate the number of participants and to plan accordingly. Following Tanapag Cemetery the cleanup will move on to the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

For any questions or more information, contact the Saipan Mayor's office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor's Office is also open through lunch. ***(PR)***

KARIDAT
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) SHELTER WORKER
For more information or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable form.
DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.
NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, September 6, 2024 AT 4:00 PM

KINGFISHER GOLF LINKS
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
(1) FRONTDESK/OPN STAFF
(3) GROUNDSKEEPER
(1) ACCOUNTANT
Green Card / EAD Holders & U.S. Citizens are invited to apply
Application forms are available at the Front Office or you can send your resume to Josie C. Camacho at email address josie.kingfisher@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
NAME OF EMPLOYER: Mantrade Company, Incorporated
THE POSITION: Accountant
NO. OF VACANCIES: 1
JOB SITE: Unit 107, 1st Floor, MSV Bldg., 1499 Beach Rd, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JOB DESCRIPTION: Maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures; Analyze and journalize business transactions; Post entries to general ledger; Maintain accuracy of general revenue, expenditure ledgers, and subsidiary financial systems; Prepare financial statements following generally accepted accounting principles; Prepare general and subsidiary ledgers and supporting schedules; Maintain books of account such as receipts and disbursement registers; Reconcile financial ledgers, monthly bank statements, and other records; Prepare and monitor cash position of the company on a daily basis and report daily cash balances to higher management; Handle bank transactions; Review aging of account payables and receivables; Ensure smooth flow of system and accuracy in the accounting department; Verify all journals, checks, and account payable vouchers, and assess propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Research and resolve discrepancies; Prepare bank reconciliation and related journal entries; Communicate with managers and operation personnel in creating and implementing various related systems and controls; Prepare payroll; Prepare CNMI and Federal taxes; Handle account receivable ledger; Make reconciliation and adjustments; Coordinate with external auditors during year-end audits; Compile and prepare supporting schedules, work papers, and financial reports as requested by auditors; Provide assistance to management staff; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Service as company liaison to various government agencies and private entities within the area of responsibility; and Perform other related duties as may be assigned.
MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.
HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive Resume and supporting credentials to:
DAISY C. GONZALES
Vice-President
MANTRADE COMPANY, INCORPORATED
Office Address: Unit 107, 1st Floor, MSV Bldg., 1499 Beach Rd, Chalan Kanoa
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 506118, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Number: (670) 235-1929
Email Address: mantrade.img@gmail.com

ISLA KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
(A:) Kagman III, (B:) Southern (San Antonio), (C:) Tinian
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Position Title: Chief Executive Officer
Salary Range: Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate
Note: The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant
Opening Date: August 16, 2024
Closing Date: September 15, 2024
Location: 6690 Kagman Road
("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")
Position Summary: We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.
Duties and Responsibilities:
• Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
• Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
• Oversee a $3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
• Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
• Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
• Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster and inclusive and positive work environment.
• Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
• Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.
Qualification Requirements:
• Education: Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
• Experience: Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
• Skills: Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
• Requirements: Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC's conflict of interest policy. (Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.)
Benefits Package:
• Competitive Salary: Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
• Retirement: 401(k) plan with company matching.
• Healthcare: Medical, Dental & Vision
• Paid Time-Off: 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually
How to Apply: Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road
Note: Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.
P.O. BOX 5723 CHRB, SAIPAN MP 96950 – 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III
Tel: (670)256-5240/2/3/7/8 Fax: (670) 256-5244/9 http://kagmanchc.org

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E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Voters with disabilities Your voice matters

You must be registered to vote 60 days before the election. September 6, 2024 is the last day to register for the election. You must be 18 years of age or older on the date of election. You must be domiciled and have resided in the CNMI for at least 120 days.

As a person with a disability, you have the right to request for Voter Assistance

You have the right to an accessible polling place.

For more information on your rights as voter with a disability, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org

This ad is paid for through funding from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and do not necessarily reflect their official views

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Established 1993

Marianas joins Nippon Domannaka Festival in Nagoya, Japan

The Marianas participated in the 26th Annual Nippon Domannaka Festival in Nagoya, Japan on Aug. 23-25, 2024, performing indigenous Carolinian and Chamorro dances for nearly 2 million enthusiastic viewers at the event and around the world.

This year's festival featured 202 groups and over 20,000 dancers from throughout Japan, with a few special international performances, including the Marianas. Nippon Domannaka Festival—or Domatsuri, for short—is the largest dance festival in central Japan and is held in late summer.

This year's Marianas delegation was sent by the Marianas Visitors Authority, with further organization and supported by Pacific Development Inc., Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., honorary Marianas tourism ambassador Kyoko Nakayama and several members of her dance group "Guma' Famagu'on Tano' yan i Tasi" (House of the Children of Land and Sea), honorary Marianas tourism ambassador Yoichi Matsumura, and Marianas residents now living in Japan, including Mike Saures and family.

MVA

Members of the Marianas delegation perform at the 26th Annual Nippon Domannaka Festival on Aug. 24, 2024, in Nagoya, Japan. Domatsuri—for short—attracted 202 dance groups from throughout Japan and abroad.

"While a group of fairly well-trained professionals or semi-professionals competed in their own performance skills, The Marianas team—as an overseas guest performer—captivated the audience with our calm and refreshing performance," said Nakayama. "Some of the audience members who come to see the event every year are familiar with The Marianas team and said, 'We've been waiting for you!' The Marianas team has been a beloved part of the festival for years, and group leader Gordon Marciano's shouts and the dancers' dance moves kept the crowd entertained."

The group sported a coconut leaf-themed uniform T-shirt that also garnered interest and inquiries as they moved throughout the city.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is so grateful to Gordon, the PDI team, and the local dancers who bring the spirit of our islands to the streets of Nagoya every year at this huge event—Nippon Domannaka festival," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "As one of only a few dance groups from outside Japan, it's a great opportunity to grow brand awareness for the Marianas. At receptions, parades, and performances under the night lights or hot midday sun, our dancers always represent our islands with enthusiasm and make us proud."

The Marianas delegation had five performances at several venues throughout the city over the course of the festival. ***(PR)***

VEHICLE FOR AUCTION:
2020 HONDA CR-V (COLOR: White)
LOW MILEAGE: 17, 392
EXCELLENT CONDITION

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Power Tailgate Release	Multi-View Camera

Bids will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties **–Minimum bid is $28,000.00**
All bids must be received by 4:00 P.M.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400138

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ENERGIZING INSULAR COMMUNITIES 30.0 KW SOLAR PV PROJECT OFFICE OF AGING (ROTA)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Richelle Janelle Cabrera Boria (Name of Mother/Father)	] FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0336
E.J.B.T. (Name(s) of Child(ren)) Plaintiffs,	] **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
vs.	
Eugenio Naputi Tenorio (Name of Mother/ Father) Defendant	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is P.O. Box 7317 SVRB, Saipan MP, 95950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24-(REPACKAGED)
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 16, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES **(IFB-008-24-REPACKAGED)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

FREDERICK PANGELINAN
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 16, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-016-24
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JULY 23, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE OF BIOMETRIC FACIAL RECOGNITION **(IFB-016-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., AUGUST 30, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: 7/23/2024

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: D&W Saipan, Inc. dba Highway Express

THE POSITION: Accountant

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Review, formulate, recommend, and implement accounting policies, systems, and procedures of the company; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Maintain accuracy of general revenue, expenditure ledgers, and subsidiary financial systems; Reconcile financial ledgers and records; Prepare the following financial statements and reports following generally accepted accounting principles and statutory basis: (a) Balance Sheet; (b) Statement of Income and Surplus; (c) Statement of cash flows; and (d) Annual Statements; Prepare general and subsidiary ledgers and supporting schedules; Verify all journals, checks, and account payable vouchers and checks propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Ensure that postings to the books of accounts are accurate and that the subsidiary ledgers are up to date and periodically reconciled with the general ledger; Research and resolve discrepancies; Review aging of account payables and receivables; Review and audit all account payables, purchase orders, cash receipts, payrolls, utility billings, and other accounting records and transactions; Ensure money is posted to correct accounts and that all account balance; Provide assistance in the development of budgets for various projects and create a variety of spreadsheets, documents, and graphs for that purpose, if necessary; Perform treasury functions, such as matching and timing of fund sources with disbursements and the implementation of budget; Prepare bank reconciliations and related journal entries for a variety of accounts, including, but not limited to, debt and loan servicing; Prepare a variety of monthly, periodic, and annual financial and statistical reports and account summaries; Prepare year-end closings and accompanying financial reports; Maintain records for audit purposes; Maintain and track fixed assets inventory control records for the company; Participate in year-end audits; Compile and prepare supporting schedules, work papers, and financial reports as requested by auditors; Provide responsible assistance to management staff; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Analyze financial transactions and formulas; Interpret and apply applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, and regulations; Maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures; Examine and verify financial documents and reports; and Perform other related duties as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

JOB LOCATION: Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and supporting credentials to:

ENOCH SUNG SOO LIM
Corporate Operating Officer
D&W SAIPAN, INC. DBA HIGHWAY EXPRESS
Office Address: Middle Road, Gualo Rai,
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Number: Tel. (670) 234-5201
Email Address: dwsaipan@pticom.com

4 public schools to conduct active shooter lockdown drill on Sept. 3

The CNMI Public School System is advising the general public that four schools will conduct active shooter lockdown drill on Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 9:30am.

The active shooting lockdown exercise will take place at the following schools:

■ Kagman High School

■ Chacha Oceanview Middle School

■ Kagman Elementary School

■ Kagman Head Start/ Early Head Start Center

This drill is part of the 2024 "KONFITMA" Exercise and is being conducted in collaboration with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and other partner agencies. In coordination with the 94th Guam National Guard Civil Support Team, the purpose of this exercise is to validate the response capabilities of the CNMI emergency response agencies.

PSS objectives of the drill

The primary goals of this exercise are to:

■ Evaluate preparedness: Assess the readiness of school staff and students in the event of an active shooter scenario.

■ Test emergency operations plans: Focus on the effectiveness of lockdown procedures and crisis communication strategies.

■ Assess coordination and communication: Evaluate the interaction between partner agencies within a Unified Command Structure.

■ Evaluate new systems: Test the activation and efficiency of the recently installed fire alarm and intercom systems at the participating schools.

Important information for parents and the community

■ Do not panic: This is a planned exercise; there is no actual threat to the schools and HS/EHS centers.

■ Please do not call or visit the schools: To ensure the drill proceeds smoothly, we ask that parents and community members refrain from calling and visiting the schools during the exercise.

■ Avoid the area: We recommend avoiding the vicinity of the participating schools during the drill to minimize traffic and distractions.

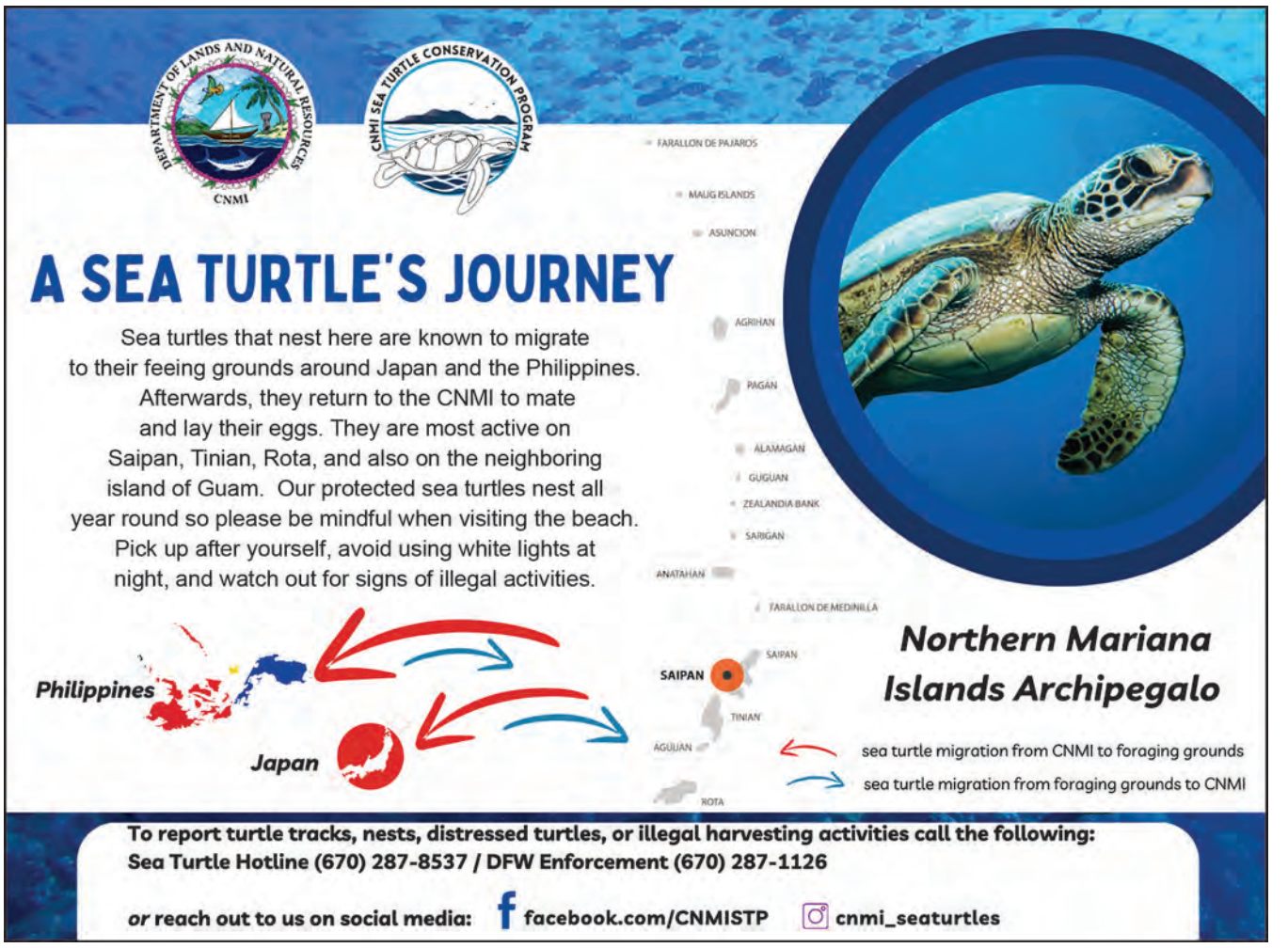
■ Support your child: Be attentive to your child's emotional needs leading up to the drill and after the drill. Provide additional support if necessary. We understand that participation in this drill may be challenging for some students. If your child has a history of trauma, anxiety, or a disability that may make participation distressing, please communicate with your child's teacher or counselor beforehand. The PSS school counselors and Mental Health team are ready to provide support to our students.

The CNMI PSS, along with all participating agencies, are committed to conducting this drill with the utmost sensitivity and respect for our community. All necessary measures will be in place to ensure safety and minimize disruptions. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we continue to conduct emergency drills to strengthen our emergency preparedness. ***(PR)***

CDD-ATP relocates to Marina Heights

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Assistive Technology Program will be temporarily relocating their office to Marina Heights MH I Building-Suite 101 (part of former Bank of Hawaii), starting Sept. 2.

CDD and the AT Program apologizes for the inconvenience and thanks the public for their understanding. ***(PR)***


DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CNMI
CNMI SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
A SEA TURTLE'S JOURNEY
Sea turtles that nest here are known to migrate to their feeing grounds around Japan and the Philippines. Afterwards, they return to the CNMI to mate and lay their eggs. They are most active on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and also on the neighboring island of Guam. Our protected sea turtles nest all year round so please be mindful when visiting the beach. Pick up after yourself, avoid using white lights at night, and watch out for signs of illegal activities.
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ASUNCION
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PAGAN
ALAMAGAN
GUGUAN
ZEALANDIA BANK
SARIGAN
ANATAHAN
FARALLON DE MEDINILLA
SAIPAN
TINIAN
AGUIJAN
ROTA
Philippines
Japan
Northern Mariana Islands Archipegalo
sea turtle migration from CNMI to foraging grounds
sea turtle migration from foraging grounds to CNMI
To report turtle tracks, nests, distressed turtles, or illegal harvesting activities call the following:
Sea Turtle Hotline (670) 287-8537 / DFW Enforcement (670) 287-1126
or reach out to us on social media: facebook.com/CNMISTP cnmi_seaturtles

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 174

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Parole consideration for those sentenced to life behind bars 35 years ago? It's the right thing to do

California's crime rate began a historic plunge in the early 1990s and has fallen ever since, except for some small spikes, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet it took more than a decade until legislation reflected the trend.

Lawmakers continued to pass fear-driven tough-on-crime laws until 2011, based on the mistaken public mind-set that crime was higher than in the recent past. When federal courts threatened to order indiscriminate releases from the state's unconstitutionally bloated and cruel prison system, California began a decade of criminal justice reform as lawmakers and voters rolled back some of the horridly excessive punishments adopted over the previous half-century.

Now the crime-and-punishment debate has shifted again. Republican politicians generally want to end the reform era and return to tougher punishments. Democrats are split between continuing reform and retrenchment.

That's the background of a heated debate over state Senate Bill 94, a worthy proposal by Sen. Dave Cortese, D-San José, to review sentences for several hundred aging California prisoners who were sent to prison for life without parole before June 5, 1990, in the pre-reform era.

Life without parole, nonexistent in California until 1978 and rarely used for more than a decade after, became standard after 1990s ballot measures made the sentence mandatory for some crimes.

More recently, reform laws returned some sentencing discretion to judges.

SB 94 follows a sensible path of recent laws and U.S. Supreme Court decisions that permit parole hearings for most people sentenced to life without parole for crimes they committed as juveniles.

It is controversial, though, because it applies to people who committed their crimes as adults, who, unlike their younger counterparts, cannot blame their criminal actions on insufficiently developed brains or lack of adult judgment. It is noteworthy, though, that most offenders who would be eligible committed their crimes in their late teens or early 20s.

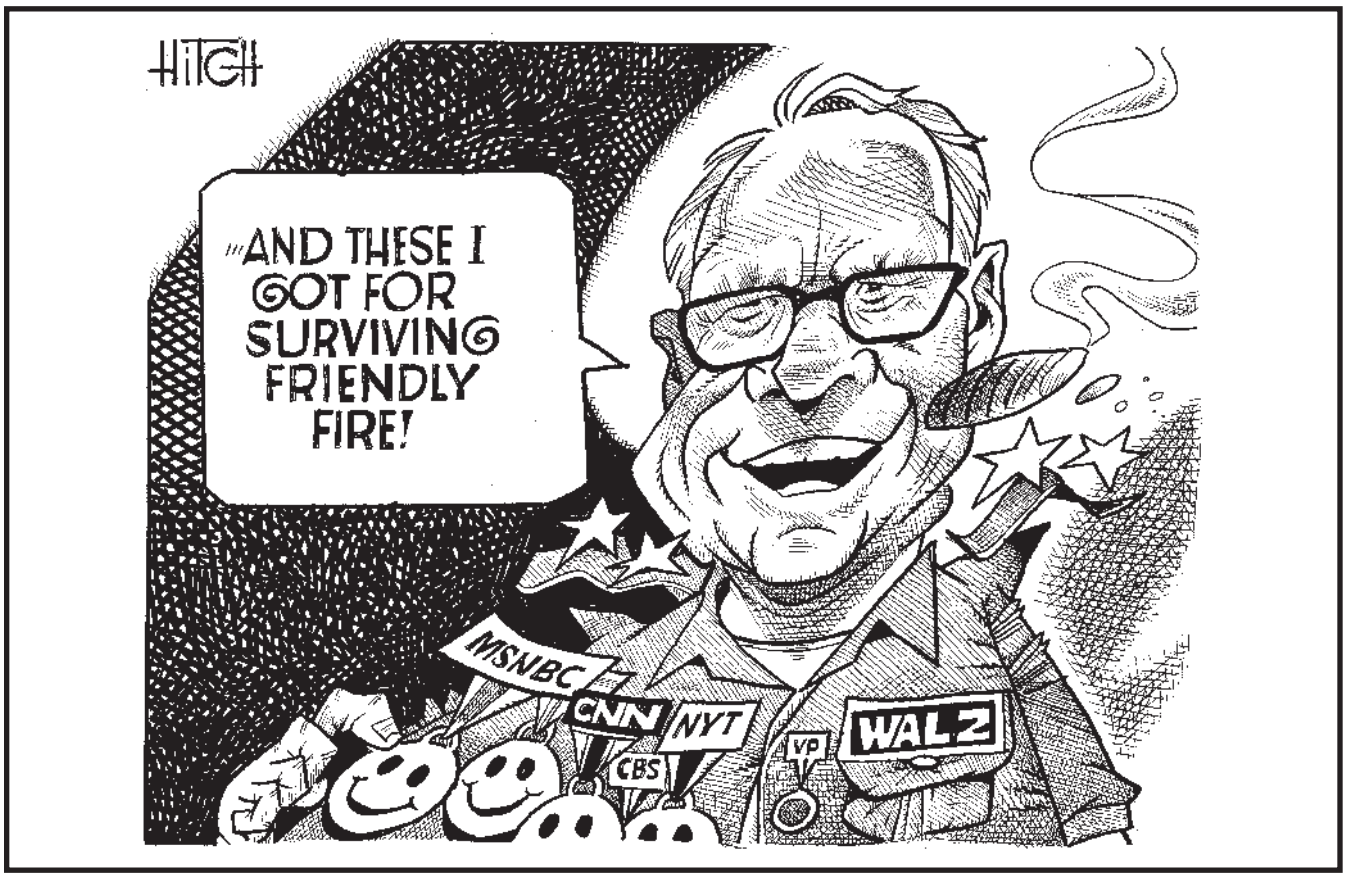
The law would not directly resentence or release any of them. It would create a multistep process that would let them make their cases for resentencing, but only after they have spent at least 25 years in prison. Serial killers, cop killers and sex offenders would not be eligible.

For the rest, judges would hear the requests and would have full discretion to reject them. If a parole hearing is granted and the Board of Parole hearings finds an offender suitable for parole—because he or she has presented ample evidence of remorse and rehabilitation over decades in prison—the governor could still reject release.

Most eligible offenders are now in their 60s and 70s, well beyond the prime age for violent crime. For many, more than a half-century will have passed between their crimes and their eligibility to seek resentencing.

Pragmatism and a measured sense of justice, rather than sympathy, are the rationales for this bill. Probably few Cali-

See PAROLE on Page 11



Making Tourism Our Business: Reviving our Garapan tourist district

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

We couldn't be more pleased about the decision of the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture to bring back the biggest weekly nighttime attraction in our destination, the Garapan Street Market.

The Garapan Street Market was initially created by the Marianas Visitors Authority in collaboration with other partners over two decades ago before the Arts Council took over its coordination, growing the market into a festive evening event of street food, arts and crafts, live entertainment and more. We look forward to it again being a "must see" for our visitors here on a Thursday night. The street market was so popular that not only did tour guides often make it part of their itinerary, but FITs—free, independent travelers—could be seen walking to the street market by the dozens, even when it was at its previous location further south.

The MVA also strongly supports the council's decision to bring the market back to the street where it all started in the 1990s, Coral Tree Avenue in front of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. If you haven't noticed, until recently, just before the Garapan Revitalization Project went into full gear, Saipan's main tourist district in downtown Garapan was looking—well, quite frankly—lackluster and sad. And also a bit scary at night for first time visitors. The hustle and bustle of the street market will enliven the area and deter illicit activities, thereby creating a positive impression for visitors and helping bring back foot traffic and business to the area.

With parking now available at Micro Beach, American Memorial Park, Beach Road, and all the inner streets of Garapan Core adjourning Coral Tree Ave., parking is more accessible. Not to mention, CNMI Transit has started bus routes since the market was suspended during the pandemic, so taking the bus is a great option for both visitors and residents coming from other villages.

The Garapan Street Market is just one more addition to the ongoing efforts to infuse new life into Garapan. The Garapan Revitalization Project being led by the Office of Planning and Development continues its momentum forward since the reopening of Paseo de Marianas to vehicular traffic. We can see the ongoing addition of more parking, sidewalks, newly paved roads, beautiful landscaping, stylish benches, and much-needed additional streetlights that will help turn darkened roads into welcoming walkways.

And there's more happening than just hardware. A couple weeks ago ABC Stores reopened their outlet on Paseo de Marianas. The MVA has a contractor cleaning and conducting ground maintenance along a few major streets in the areas for several hours every week. Please keep an eye out for those hardworking folks early in the morning, greet and thank them, and drive safely!

There are good people doing good work in downtown Garapan. For decades, the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, Japan-Saipan Travel Association, and Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association have rallied the community in biannual cleanups in the area before the Christmas and New Year holidays and before Golden Week. PDM Promoters has cleaned throughout the streets with young people for years, teaching them the importance of taking pride in having a clean community. During Marianas Tourism Month in May this year, students of the MY WAVE Clubs of Dandan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Da'ok Academy volunteered alongside the Department of Public Works and the Division of Parks and Recreation to paint curbs and medians on Beach Rd. Several legislators have invested their resources in cleanups, and even the Department of Corrections has jumped in on the action. We must pay special attention to Garapan. It is a microcosm of the economic landscape of the entire Marianas. We encourage Zoning, Commerce, Public Works, Finance and other regulatory agencies to allow for Garapan Core to become a creative space, if you will. Allow entrepreneurs to open shop freely, easily, with minimal restrictions, allowing for more creative ideas to flourish and hopefully take root. This may mean larger, brighter, more visible signs to attract customers, and more variety in the types of businesses permitted. Garapan Core should become a laboratory of innovation, entrepreneurship, capitalism, and discovery!

As we consider what needs to be done today to make a brighter future for Garapan, perhaps we can take a pointer from the past. Remember the days when every island business took pride in the appearance and cleanliness of their establishment? When a few minutes were spent in the morning cleaning up outside, including the sidewalk? We encourage businesses and residents in downtown Garapan to step outside and take a look at what potential customers see when they walk by. A little bit of paint and

See TOURISM on Page 11

Israel and Hezbollah flirt with a war

By DANIEL DEPETRIS
Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

For a brief moment this weekend, it looked as if the looming regional war that officials and analysts inside and outside the Middle East were concerned about for weeks had finally reared its ugly head.

Acting on intelligence that Hezbollah was about to launch a large-scale drone and missile attack on targets deep into Israel, 100 Israeli aircraft were scrambled for a bombing run into southern Lebanon.

About 40 Hezbollah military targets were struck simultaneously, derailing what Israeli security sources claimed was an imminent Hezbollah attack on northern and central Israel. Hezbollah retaliated shortly thereafter, sending approximately 340 rockets into Israel—the largest Hezbollah barrage since the cross-border fighting occurred in October. When all was said and done, two Hezbollah fighters and one Israeli sailor were killed.

That's the bad news. The good news: Both sides are claiming victory and seem to want to move on. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israel Defense Forces, or IDF, are playing up Israel's tactical proficiency against the Lebanese militia, stating that a much more deadly Hezbollah attack was averted.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is puffing out his chest and alleging that the group has avenged the death of one its senior commanders in an Israeli airstrike last month. "At this current stage, the country (Lebanon) can take a breath and relax," Nasrallah said in a speech after the rocket attack.

Although Israel and Hezbollah have been sending ordinance at each other for nearly a year, both sides appear to understand just how devastating a full-scale war would be for Israel and Lebanon, let alone the region at large.

Indeed, according to Reuters, Israeli and Hezbollah officials exchanged messages stating that neither wished to escalate the fighting further. This is in keeping with an 11-month-long track record in which both parties effectively straddle the very thin line between contained military exchanges along the Israeli-Lebanese border region and full-fledged war that could cause thousands of civilian casualties. Israel has at times challenged that thin line, most notably on July 30 when it killed senior Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur in al-Dahiya, a southern suburb of Beirut, where the Hezbollah leadership is based.

It's no surprise that Israel and Hezbollah would prefer to avoid an all-out confrontation. Simply put, the stakes and costs are too high, and whatever benefits may be accrued would be overshadowed by the sheer destruction, both economically and in human terms, that would result.

Israel, of course, would do immense damage to Hezbollah's military infrastructure and capability during a hypothetical war with the group. Israeli military intelligence on Hezbollah's movements, weapons caches and facilities throughout Lebanon is quite good. Israel's three-tiered air defense system has saved countless lives. And the IDF holds escalation dominance over the group, which means that Israel retains military advantages—large, well-trained ground forces, air power and higher-quality intelligence—that Hezbollah can't match.

Yet even escalation dominance isn't cost-free. A war against Hezbollah would make the ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza look like a day at the park. Unlike Hamas, Hezbollah possesses the kinds of weapons—medium-range, precision guided missiles, attack and surveillance drones of various ranges and a ground force that could be as high as 100,000—that would make daily life in Israel hard to function.

With upward of 150,000 missiles, Hezbollah has the capacity to hit targets anywhere in Israel, and you can bet that Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, would be on the list. Israel's economy, which contracted in the last quarter of 2023, would likely contract further as the country mobilizes more military personnel—subtracting from the civilian workforce.

The IDF would seek to destroy Hezbollah in its entirety just as it's now trying to do with Hamas. Yet the probability of the Lebanese militia simply vanishing into thin air—Hezbollah is also a political party and a decadeslong social movement—is about as low as winning the Powerball jackpot.

Israel's international reputation would also take a beating; any war against Hezbollah would likely involve striking infrastructure, like airports, ports and highways, that sustain a country that is already suffering an economic catastrophe.

Hezbollah wouldn't win by sparking a war either. Its last major conflict with Israel in 2006 was commonly viewed as a relative success in that it forced Israel to withdraw from Lebanon without achieving all of its military objectives. But the damage to Lebanon during the one-month war was extensive, and it took years for the country to rebuild. In fact, weeks after a cease-fire was declared, Nasrallah openly regretted going through with it.

The regrets would be even heavier today. The Lebanese people, after all, are already dealing with extensive financial calamity. Lebanon's economy has contracted by two-thirds since 2018, the product of a banking crisis, systemic corruption and a decline in international donor support.

The World Bank assesses that Lebanon's poverty rate has more than tripled over the last decade. The wealthy Gulf States like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar will think twice before helping Lebanon rebuild again. A war against the Middle East's most formidable power would exacerbate all of these problems, running the risk of souring Hezbollah's popular support within the Lebanese public and giving its political opponents an opportunity to paint the movement as the prime instigator of the country's misery. In short, Hezbollah can't ignore all of these economic and political considerations.

None of this means that we're out of the woods. A war between Israel and Hezbollah is still very much a live possibility—and it will continue to be a possibility as long as a cease-fire deal in Gaza is elusive. But rationality has ruled the day thus far.

Tipping culture is out of control. Trump and Harris would make it worse

By VIRGINIA POSTREL
Los Angeles Times

Virginia Postrel is a contributing editor for WorksinProgress.co and writes a newsletter at vpostrel.substack.com. Her most recent book is "The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World."

If you left the U.S. for a summer vacation, you may have encountered a strange and refreshing custom: not tipping. Or at least not tipping everyone in sight.

Americans have long been among the world's most profligate tippers. "We tip more occupations than any other country, and we tend to tip larger amounts than other countries," says Michael Lynn, a professor of consumer behavior at Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration whose research focuses on tipping. "We're kind of the tip-happiest country out there."

Just wait. American tipping culture is poised to get even more intense. In a rare case of bipartisan agreement, presidential candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris both advocate exempting tips from federal income taxes. It's a popular stance with many potential voters, notably in Nevada, a swing state whose many casino, hotel and restaurant workers rely heavily on tips.

The idea would be bad news for customers—and perhaps even for tipped workers themselves.

Consumers are already weary of the way tip expectations have expanded since the pandemic. As people curbed their restaurant dining to avoid COVID-19, they increased the size of the tips they left, whether for dining in, takeout or delivery. Meanwhile businesses gravitated toward machines for cashless, no-contact transactions.

Soon tip jars that once collected loose change at cash registers morphed into touch screens suggesting significantly larger tip amounts, even for small purchases. Restaurants without waiter service — and takeout coffee places — now come with pressure to tip.

A Pew Research Center survey last November found that 72% of U.S. adults believe tipping is expected at more places than five years ago. You have to wonder how often the other 28% get out of the house.

It's all a bit much. In a February WalletHub survey, three out of four respondents said tipping has gotten out of control. Tipping isn't just a financial burden. It creates psychological stress. Is a tip optional or expected? How much is enough? Am I a bad person if I say no?

Excluding tips from federal income tax might simplify employer paperwork and erase the difference between easily tracked credit card charges and cash gratuities, which often go unreported. The exemption could also allow employers to pay lower (taxed) wages, because workers would have the hope of keeping more (untaxed) tips.

All of those factors would encourage even more transactions to come with real or virtual tip jars. If your barista, tattoo artist and massage therapist get tips, why not the supermarket cashier, dental hygienist and plumber? Tipping in those situations might seem odd, even unseemly today, but tax-free income is hard to resist.

Vice President Harris has specified that the exemption would apply to "service and hospitality workers," but they aren't the only people who currently receive tips. It's hard to imagine those limits surviving the political pressure to include at least all tipped workers below a given income threshold.

Either way, however, the proposal picks winners. To help all workers in low-paid jobs, presidential candidates might propose increasing the standard deduction or the earned income tax credit. That would be fairer. But the tip loophole isn't about a general increase in take-home pay; it's about winning votes in Nevada.

Like the tax credits that oil companies get for blending ethanol with gasoline, thereby subsidizing demand for Iowa corn, making tips tax free offers big benefits to a concentrated group while spreading the costs over the general public. Nobody's likely to vote against a candidate because they dread proliferating tip jars, but workers who make a lot of tips might vote for them.

If either proposal came to pass, the revenue forgone by the Treasury would have to come from somewhere else. But that would be a "next year" problem, an unpleasant reality not destined to get much attention this fall or sway many votes in November.

That's why we see two fiercely opposed candidates rushing to agree on this harebrained scheme. We can only hope that they cancel each other out and that whoever is elected drops the idea.

TOURISM

From page 10

more sweeping could go a long way. That little patch of grass that sticks out on the corners of buildings, sign posts, or large rocks? Trim that grass to make your area more presentable. And let's see citations issued and publicized for violations of the anti-littering law! We should not allow trash bins in Garapan Core to be placed on sidewalks 24/7 with their putrid smell and garbage sometimes overflowing onto the sidewalk, street or neighboring properties.

Working together as government, businesses, and community, we can breathe new life in our main tourist district of Garapan. We look forward to the continued progress.

PAROLE

From page 10

fornians will feel sorry for killers, regardless of the number of decades they have been locked up. But there is diminishing value in continuing to imprison people for violent crimes they committed long ago when they were young and stupid.

There are continuing costs to housing, feeding, clothing and medically treating the elderly in prison. And there is value to society in limiting the number of decades a person is to be punished even for the cruelest of acts after sufficient evidence is presented that there is little risk that parole will endanger the public.

Still, in our system even the most rational sentencing reform takes a back seat to partisan politics. Republicans and Democrats are vying for control of Congress, and their battles over criminal justice measures are each fought with any eye on a handful of races in the House of Representatives that are up for grabs, as each side uses crime fears to get their voters to the polls.

That's part of what's at play in the fight over whether to roll back Proposition 47, which turned certain theft and drug crimes that could be charged as felonies in the tough-on-crime era back into misdemeanors. And it's part of what's at play with SB 94.

The bill will fail if it doesn't pass the Assembly by Saturday. It would be a shame to allow a safe and cost-saving reform like this one to die in that partisan fight.

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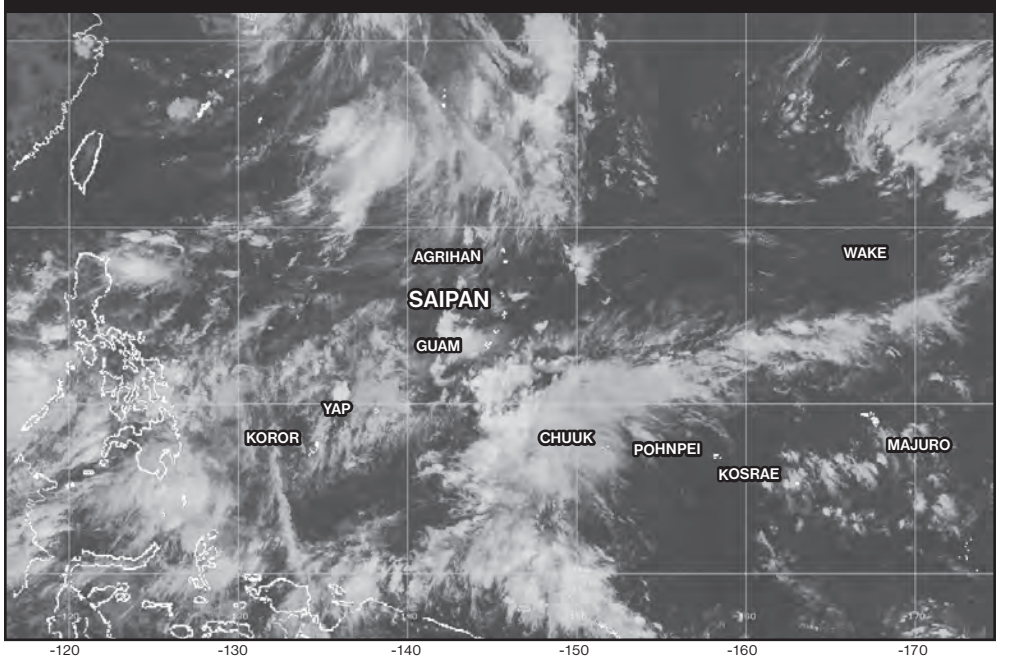
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	Partly cloudy.
86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Numerous heavy showers with scattered thunderstorms are seen west of the Marianas waters. To the east, a weakening trough is expected to pass through the waters and bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms today. Latest satellite indicates showers developing over the waters and to the south as well.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:28 AM	3:59 PM	-
Saturday	3:24 AM	4:45 PM	-
Sunday	4:18 AM	5:27 PM	-
Monday	5:09 AM	6:04 PM	-
Tuesday	5:58 AM	6:39 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	59° / 50°
Beijing	Fair	87° / 66°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	94° / 78°
Honolulu	Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	56° / 39°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	92° / 73°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	96° / 81°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	88° / 77°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 57°
Seoul	Sunny	92° / 72°
Tokyo	Light Rain	88° / 79°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	99° / 76°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:39 AM	High Tide	1.74
11:25 AM	Low Tide	-0.02
6:53 PM	High Tide	1.85
-	-	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

LOCAL

The worldwide catastrophe of rising seas especially imperils Pacific paradises, Guterres says

By SETH BORENSTEIN and CHARLOTTE GRAHAM-McLAY
AP Science Writer

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Highlighting seas that are rising at an accelerating rate, especially in the far more vulnerable Pacific island nations, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued yet another climate SOS to the world. This time he said those initials stand for "save our seas."

The United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization Monday issued reports on worsening sea level rise, turbocharged by a warming Earth and melting ice sheets and glaciers. They highlight how the Southwestern Pacific is not only hurt by the rising oceans, but by other climate change effects of ocean acidification and marine heat waves.

Guterres toured Samoa and Tonga and made his climate plea from Tonga's capital on Tuesday at a meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, whose member countries are among those most imperiled by climate change. Next month the United Nations General Assembly holds a special session to discuss rising seas.

"This is a crazy situation," Guterres said. "Rising seas are a crisis entirely of humanity's making. A crisis that will soon swell to an almost unimaginable scale, with no lifeboat to take us back to safety."

"A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril," he said. "The ocean is overflowing."

A report that Guterres' office commissioned found that sea level lapping against Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa had risen 21 centimeters (8.3 inches) between 1990 and 2020, twice the global average of 10 centimeters (3.9 inches). Apia, Samoa, has seen 31 centimeters (1 foot) of rising seas, while Suva-B, Fiji has had 29 centimeters (11.4 inches).

"This puts Pacific Island nations in grave danger," Guterres said. About 90% of the region's people live within 5 kilometers (3 miles) of the rising oceans, he said.

Since 1980, coastal flooding in Guam has jumped from twice a year to 22 times a year. It's gone from five times a year to 43 times a year in the Cook Islands. In Pago Pago, American Samoa, coastal flooding went from zero to 102 times a year, according to the WMO State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2023 report.

"Because of sea level rise, the ocean is transforming from being a lifelong friend into a growing threat," Celeste Saulo, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization, told reporters in Nuku'alofa on Tuesday.

While the western edges of the Pacific are seeing sea level rise about twice the global average, the central Pacific is closer to the global average, the WMO said.

Sea levels are rising faster in the western tropical Pacific because of where the melting ice from western Antarctica heads, warmer waters and ocean currents, UN officials said.

Guterres said he can see changes since the last time he was in the region in May 2019.

While he met in Nuku'alofa on Tuesday with Pacific nations on the environment at their leaders' annual summit, a hundred local high school students and activists from across the Pacific marched for climate justice a few blocks away.

One of the marchers was Itinterunga Rae of the Barnaban Human Rights Defenders Network, whose people were forced generations ago to relocate to Fiji from their Kiribati island home due to environmental degradation. Rae said abandoning Pacific islands should not be seen as a solution to rising seas.

"We promote climate mobility as a solution to be safe from your island that's been destroyed by climate change, but it's not the safest option," he said. Barnabans have been cut off from the source of their culture and heritage, he said.

"The alarm is justified," said S. Jeffress Williams, a retired U.S. Geological Survey sea level scientist. He said it's especially bad for the Pacific islands because most of the islands are at low elevations, so people are more likely to get hurt. Three outside experts said the sea level reports accurately reflect what's happening.

The Pacific is getting hit hard despite only producing 0.2% of heat-trapping gases causing climate change and expanding oceans, the UN said. The largest chunk of the sea rise is from melting ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland. Melting land glaciers add to that, and warmer water also expands based on the laws of physics.

Antarctic and Greenland "melting has greatly accelerated over the past three to four decades due to high rate of warming at the poles," Williams, who was not part of the reports, said in an email.

About 90% of the heat trapped by greenhouse gases goes into the oceans, the UN said.

Globally, sea level rise has been accelerating, the UN report said, echoing peer-reviewed studies. The rate is now the fastest it has been in 3,000 years, Guterres said.

Between 1901 and 1971, the global average sea rise was 1.3 centimeters a decade, according to the UN report. Between 1971 and 2006 it jumped to 1.9 centimeters per decade, then between 2006 and 2018 it was up to 3.7 centimeters a decade. The last decade, seas have risen 4.8 centimeters (1.9 inches).

The UN report also highlighted cities in the richest 20 nations, which account for 80% of the heat-trapping gases, where rising seas are lapping at large population centers. Those cities where sea level rise in the past 30 years has been at least 50% higher than the global average include Shanghai; Perth, Australia; London; Atlantic City, New Jersey; Boston; Miami; and New Orleans.

New Orleans topped the list with 10.2 inches (26 centimeters) of sea level rise between 1990 and 2020. UN officials highlighted the flooding in New York City during 2012's Superstorm Sandy as worsened by rising seas. A 2021 study said climate-driven sea level rise added $8 billion to the storm's costs.

Guterres is amping up his rhetoric on what he calls "climate chaos" and urged richer nations to step up efforts to reduce carbon emissions, end fossil fuel use and help poorer nations. Yet countries' energy plans show them producing double the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than the amount that would limit warming to internationally agreed upon levels, a 2023 UN report found.

Guterres said he expects Pacific island nations to "speak loud and clear" in the next General Assembly, and because they contribute so little to climate change, "they have a moral authority to ask those that are creating accelerating the sea level rise to reverse these trends."

Business

McDonald's names 'Crew of the Quarter'

McDonald's of Saipan proudly announces the achievements of its dedicated crew members from the Garapan and Chalan Lau Lau restaurants for the second quarter of 2024. The "Crew of the Quarter" award has been given to Chedler Marie Villanueva from the Garapan restaurant and Nena L. Babauta from the Chalan Lau Lau restaurant. These exceptional crew members exemplify McDonald's commitment to maintaining high standards of service and quality.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Chedler Marie Villanueva from the Garapan restaurant won McDonald's of Saipan's "Crew of the Quarter" for the second quarter of 2024.

Babauta, the Crew of the 2nd Quarter from Chalan Lau Lau, stated, "Winning this award makes me happy and proud of myself. I enjoy working with my managers and crew, and I'm grateful to McDonald's for the training that has helped me become a flexible crew member. I want to thank the company for giving me the best training and the ability to improve myself."

Nena L. Babauta from the Chalan Lau Lau restaurant won McDonald's of Saipan's "Crew of the Quarter" for the second quarter of 2024.

Villanueva, the recipient from Garapan, shared his thoughts: "Winning the Crew of the Quarter award is a recognition of the dedication and hard work I've put in during the quarter. The staff at McDonald's have supported my growth by listening to my opinions, being patient, and teaching me skills I can use outside of work. I want to thank the managers and crew for making McDonald's a fun place to work, and I encourage them to keep up the great work so they can earn an award too."

For more information about McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, visit www.mcdonalds-guamandsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

French authorities issue preliminary charges against Telegram messaging app CEO

PARIS (AP)—French authorities handed preliminary charges to Telegram CEO Pavel Durov on Wednesday for allowing alleged criminal activity on his messaging app, and barred him from leaving France pending further investigation.

Both free-speech advocates and authoritarian governments have spoken out in Durov's defense since his weekend arrest. The case has also called attention to the challenges of policing illegal activity online, and to the Russia-born Durov's own unusual biography and multiple passports.

Durov was detained on Saturday at Le Bourget airport outside Paris as part of a sweeping investigation opened earlier this year, and released earlier Wednesday after four days of questioning. Investigative judges filed preliminary charges Wednesday night and ordered him to pay 5 million euros bail and to report to a police station twice a week, according to a statement from the Paris prosecutor's office.

Allegations against Durov, who is also a French citizen, include that his platform is being used for child sexual abuse material and drug trafficking, and that Telegram refused to share information or documents with investigators when required by law.

The first preliminary charge against him was for ''complicity in managing an online platform to allow illicit transactions by an organized group," a crime that can lead to sentences of up to 10 years in prison and 500,000 euro fine, the prosecutor's office said.

Preliminary charges under French law mean magistrates have strong reason to believe a crime was committed but allow more time for further investigation.

David-Olivier Kaminski, a lawyer for Durov, was quoted by French media as saying "it's totally absurd to think that the person in charge of a social network could be implicated in criminal acts that don't concern him, directly or indirectly."

Prosecutors said that Durov is, "at this stage, the only person implicated in this case." They did not exclude the possibility that other people are being investigated, but declined to comment on other possible arrest warrants.

Nation

FBI SAYS ON TRUMP ASSASINATION

Gunman saw rally as 'target of opportunity'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The gunman in the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump searched online for events of both Trump and President Joe Biden, looked up information about explosives over the last five years and eyed the Pennsylvania campaign rally where he opened fire last month as a "target of opportunity," a senior FBI official said Wednesday.

Investigators who have conducted nearly 1,000 interviews do not yet have a motive for why 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks shot at Trump during a July campaign rally but they believe that he conducted "extensive attack planning," including looking up campaign events involving both the current president and former president, particularly in western Pennsylvania.

The FBI analysis of his online search history reveals a "sustained, detailed effort to plan an attack on some event, meaning he looked at any number of events or targets," Kevin Rojek, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Pittsburgh field office, told reporters Wednesday in the latest in a series of briefings on the investigation.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-025

S-11 & S-12 SEWER LIFT STATION RELOCATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the relocation of the existing S-11 & S-12 sewer lift station; relocation of wet well; relocation of valve and flow meter stations; installation of new pumps and accessories; and renovation of the existing generator building. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-025, S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 1, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided bid forms. Bidders are required to complete all bid forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (CHST) on September 10, 2024 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer, at email alley.reyes@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

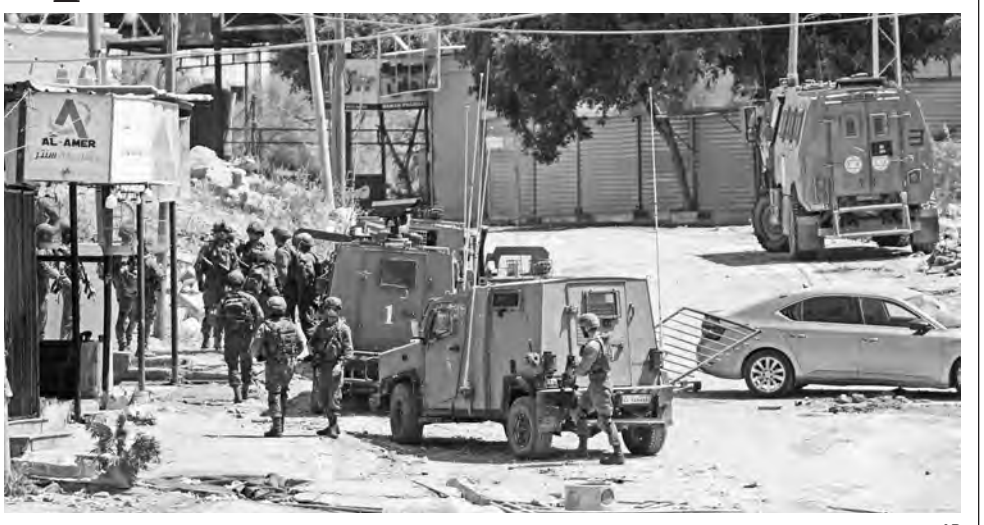
CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

World

Israeli forces launch big operation in West Bank



AP

Members of Israeli forces patrol a street during a military operation in the West Bank refugee camp of Al-Faraa, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024.

AL-FARAA REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank (AP)—Israeli forces launched a large operation in the occupied West Bank overnight and into Wednesday, killing at least 10 Hamas militants, carrying out arrests and sealing off the volatile city of Jenin.

» Kill at least 10 militants

The ongoing operation was among the largest in the West Bank in months, and a reminder that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict extends far beyond the war in Gaza that began with Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. Israel says it is rooting out West Bank militants to prevent attacks, while Palestinians fear it intends to broaden the war and expel them from territories they want for a future state.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said "large forces" had entered Jenin, long a militant stronghold, as well as Tulkarem and the Al-Faraa refugee camp dating back to the 1948 Mideast war, all in the northern West Bank.

He said Israeli forces killed three militants in an airstrike in Tulkarem and four in an airstrike in Al-Faraa. He said another five suspected militants were arrested, and that the raids were the first stage of an even larger operation. Four Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire in Jenin, according to Palestinian officials.

Hamas announced that 10 of its fighters had been killed in the West Bank on Wednesday, including three of the four men killed in Jenin. It was not immediately clear if the fourth was also a fighter. The military said all of the dead were militants.

The governor of Jenin, Kamal Abu al-Rub, said on Palestinian radio that Israeli forces had surrounded the city, blocking exit and entry points and access to hospitals, and ripping up infrastructure in the camp.

The Palestinian Health Ministry in the West Bank said Israeli forces had blocked the roads leading to a hospital with dirt barriers and surrounded other medical facilities in Jenin. Shoshani said the military was trying to prevent militants from taking shelter in hospitals.

An Associated Press reporter saw army vehicles blocking all the entrances to Al-Faraa camp. Military jeeps and bulldozers entered the camp and soldiers were seen patrolling its alleyways by foot. Water leaked onto the damaged streets from houses where fighting had ruptured tanks and pipes. Shots rang out every few minutes.

A Russian missile hits Ukrainian president's home city

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A Russian missile slammed into Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's home city on Wednesday, local authorities said, just as Kryvyi Rih was observing an official day of mourning for an attack the previous day that killed four civilians at a hotel.

The latest attack on the city struck civilian infrastructure, wounding eight people, local administration head Oleksandr Vilkul said on social media.

Tuesday's attack, which also wounded five people, was part of a barrage of dozens of missiles and drones across Ukraine that Russia launched for a second consecutive day.

"When Kryvyi Rih is in mourning, the enemy attacks again. And it once again aims at civilians," regional head Serhii Lysak said Wednesday.

Russia stepped up its aerial attacks on Ukraine on Monday, firing more than 100 missiles and a similar number of drones in its biggest onslaught in weeks.

The intensified campaign coincided with what could prove to be a decisive period of the war, which Russia launched on Feb. 24, 2022.

Russian forces have been driving deeper into Ukraine's partly occupied eastern Donetsk region, whose total capture is one of the Kremlin's primary ambitions. Russia's army is closing in on Pokrovsk, a critical logistics hub for the Ukrainian defense in the area.

At the same time, Ukraine has sent its forces into Russia's Kursk region in recent weeks in the largest incursion onto Russian soil since World War II. The move is in part an effort to force Russia to draw troops away from the Donetsk front.

At the hotel in Kryvyi Rih, rescuers on Wednesday found a final body under the rubble. The rescue operation then ended.

Meanwhile, Ukraine claimed its anti-aircraft defenses destroyed a Russian Su-25 jet in the Donetsk region.

Ukraine also kept up its long-range drone attacks on Russia's rear logistical areas.

Life & Style

Megan Thee Stallion hosts, Taylor Swift dominates

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper, singer, songwriter, businesswoman, hot girl summer purveyor and now... award show host? Megan Thee Stallion will host the 2024 MTV Video Music Awards.

It marks her first time hosting an award show, though she's guest hosted "Saturday Night Live" and served as a co-host for "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" in the past. This time, it's in front of her musical peers.

The 2024 award show promises star-studded performances, tons of moon people, and even more Taylor Swift.

Here's everything you need to know about the MTV VMAs.

AP

Megan Thee Stallion performs during BottleRock Napa Valley on Friday, May 24, 2024, in Napa, Calif.

WHEN ARE THE MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS?

The VMAs will air live on Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. Eastern from the UBS Arena on New York's Long Island.

The award show moved back a day because of the forthcoming U.S. presidential debate. ABC News recently confirmed that the campaigns of both Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump had agreed to participate in a debate on Sept. 10.

WHO'S NOMINATED FOR THE VMAS?

Swift tops the VMA nominations with 10—eight for her "Fortnight" music video and nods in the artist of the year and best pop categories. She's followed by her "Fortnight" collaborator Post Malone, who has nine. He is nominated along with Swift eight times and earned his ninth nom for his country hit "I Had Some Help," featuring Morgan Wallen.

Rounding out the artist of the year category nominees are Ariana Grande, Bad Bunny, Eminem, Sabrina Carpenter and SZA.

Grande, Carpenter and Eminem are tied with six nods; Megan Thee Stallion and SZA have five each. Blackpink's LISA, Olivia Rodrigo and Teddy Swims follow with four nominations each.

» Here's what to know about the 2024 MTV VMAs

This year features 29 first-time nominees, which include Wallen, Carpenter and Swims as well as Benson Boone and Tyla—the latter boast three nominations each.

WHO WILL RECEIVE THE VIDEO VANGUARD AWARD?

Katy Perry will receive the Video Vanguard Award. She will also perform.

Previous recipients include Shakira, Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna and Missy Elliott.

Perry will return to the VMA stage for the first time since 2017, when she performed and hosted the award show.

The pop singer has won five VMAs across her career. She took home her first three awards in 2011: video of the year ("Firework"), best collaboration and best special effects (both for "E.T.," featuring Kanye West).

WHO IS PERFORMING AT THE VMAS?

Performers will include Perry, Boone, Carpenter, Chappell Roan, GloRilla, Halsey, Lenny Kravitz, LISA, Rauw Alejandro, Anitta, Karol G, LL COOL J, Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello.

WHAT ABOUT VOTING?

Fan voting across 15 gender-neutral categories is live right now and ends Friday.

Voting in the best new artist category will remain active throughout the show.

'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' stars Winona Ryder, Michael Keaton attend Venice Film Festival opening

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival kicked off in Hollywood fashion with the world premiere of "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" Wednesday evening on the Lido.

To make the sequel, Tim Burton reunited with several key cast members from his 1988 horror-comedy, including Michael Keaton playing the titular ghoul, Catherine O'Hara, and Winona Ryder as Lydia, now mother to her own sullen teen played by Jenna Ortega.

"I'm not out to do a big sequel for money," Burton said a few hours before the premiere, with his cast alongside him. "I wanted to make this for very personal reasons."

The reason, he said, was that he'd become disillusioned with the film industry in the past few years. "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" was the kick he needed to fall in love with the process again.

"I just realized if I'm going to do anything again, I just wanted to do it from my heart. Something that I wanted to do," Burton said. "It's a bit like the Lydia character. Sometimes your life takes a little bit of a turn, you go down a different path. I sort of lost myself a little bit."

The film comes 36 years after audiences first met the Deetz family. Though the original "Beetlejuice" was a hit, the tenth highest grossing film of 1988, and remains a beloved staple, Burton said he never quite understood why it was such a success. In fact, he didn't even watch it to prepare to make this one. He remembered the spirit well enough.

AP

Michael Keaton poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' and the opening ceremony of the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024.

"There are so few opportunities to be in something that you can say is 100% original and unique," said Keaton, who joked about his character's evolution.

"I think my character has matured," Keaton said. "As suave and sensitive as he was in the first, I think he's even more so in this one."

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," which Warner Bros. opens in theaters worldwide next week, may be a major Hollywood studio release, but it was made with a scrappy and improvisational energy which extended from the cast to the crew, who were often building puppets on the spot.

"It's not going to win any Academy Awards for special effects," Burton laughed. "It doesn't matter. It's part of the DNA of the project."

Couple have divergent views about punctuality

DEAR ABBY: A friend retired, moved and gave me her well-paying, once-a-week job doing industrial cleaning. It pays a sizable chunk of our bills. My husband, who agreed to work with me doing this, gives me a hard time every week by being late.

We need to be there after business hours at 5:30 p.m. so we don't interrupt anyone while they're working. I have to remind my husband EVERY Wednesday that we need to be AT THE JOB. It causes fights. He makes his own hours at his other job. He can work whenever he wants and leave when it's done. I was raised to believe, "If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, then you're late." His attitude is, "Why worry about when we show up?"

I'm angry that he doesn't respect how important this job is to me. I'm his boss when it comes to this jobsite. How can I handle this? I'm so done. I can't lose this job, and I can't do it by myself! It's HIPAA-protected, so not just anyone can do this with me.

TIMED OUT IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR TIMED OUT: How important is it that you start promptly at 5:30? Could all the work get done if you started at 6? I know you are a stickler for promptness, but who set the hours? You and your husband might fight less often if you become more flexible.

However, if the problem persists, remind him that the extra income helps to pay important bills. If that doesn't motivate him, stop fighting, contact the friend who gave you the job and ask if she has any suggestions about someone who could do what your husband has been doing. I wish you luck.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: We've lived in our working-class urban neighborhood for decades. We have always made friends with our neighbors, including a young couple with a toddler two doors away. We don't socialize with them other than to chat when we see them on the street, and we gave their daughter a onesie on her birthday last year.

Just before the pandemic, they acquired a rescue dog, which they often leave in their backyard. The animal barks nonstop for hours, which makes it difficult to enjoy being outside in our yard. We're home most of the time, and my partner is a gardener, so he spends long hours out there.

What's the best way to handle this? Friends who know more about dogs than we do tell us it's impossible to break dogs of this habit. Do you think that because we haven't complained they think we're OK with it? We want to be good neighbors

NOT OK WITH IT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR NOT OK: Dogs have been known to bark because of separation anxiety. If your neighbors are away when their dog is creating a problem, and you have expressed nothing about it, you or your partner must let them know. The conversation doesn't have to be confrontational, but nothing will change unless YOU step up and bark about it. Do it now, before you lose your minds.

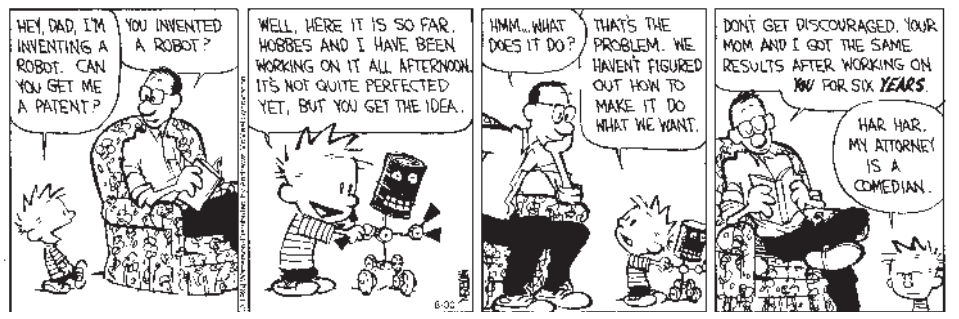
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY, DAD, I'M INVENTING A ROBOT. CAN YOU GET ME A PATENT?
YOU INVENTED A ROBOT?
WELL, HERE IT IS SO FAR. HOBBES AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON IT ALL AFTERNOON. IT'S NOT QUITE PERFECTED YET, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA.
HMM...WHAT DOES IT DO?
THAT'S THE PROBLEM. WE HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO MAKE IT DO WHAT WE WANT.
DON'T GET DISCOURAGED. YOUR MOM AND I GOT THE SAME RESULTS AFTER WORKING ON YOU FOR SIX YEARS.
HAR HAR. MY ATTORNEY IS A COMEDIAN.

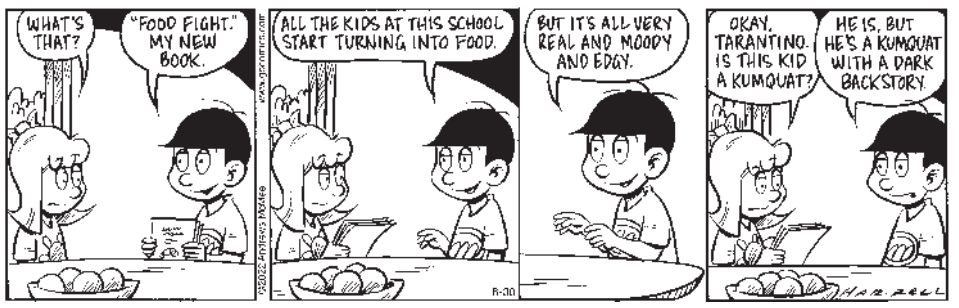
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ON YOUR DIET?
SIGH
ONE DAY, SIX HOURS, FORTY-TWO MINUTES AND SIX SECONDS
BUT WHO'S COUNTING?
JIM DAVIS 8-30

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THAT?
"FOOD FIGHT." MY NEW BOOK.
ALL THE KIDS AT THIS SCHOOL START TURNING INTO FOOD.
BUT IT'S ALL VERY REAL AND MOODY AND EDGY.
OKAY, TARANTINO. IS THIS KID A KUMQUAT?
HE IS, BUT HE'S A KUMQUAT WITH A DARK BACKSTORY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ENO, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
IS IT ABOUT THIS LIFETIME MOVIE WE'RE WATCHING?
ARE YOU A PSYCHOTIC KILLER?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
EXACTLY WHAT HER BOYFRIEND SAID WHEN CONFRONTED.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Xenon, for one
4 "Go no further!"
8 Caboose
12 Toward the stern
13 Engine noise
14 City on a fjord
15 Sham
17 Head, to Henri
18 Mogadishu resident
19 Latin 101 word
21 Business letters
22 Rug
26 Curved moldings
29 Bashful
30 Deluge refuge
31 Tiers
32 Snoop
33 Advertising award
34 The Browns, on scoreboards
35 "Entourage" agent
36 Domesticates
37 Steep-roofed home
39 Schedule abbr.
40 PC program
41 Dueling sword
45 Taxi alternative
48 Maxims
50 Gambling game
51 Aachen article
52 Off-roader (Abbr.)
53 Algerian port
54 June 6, 1944
55 Fist bump

DOWN

1 Openings
2 Hendrix hairdo
3 Goblet feature
4 Hexes
5 Roman garment
6 Choice words?
7 Didactic
8 Copter blade
9 Language suffix
10 PC key
11 Caviar base
16 Yarns
20 Potentially will
23 Coconut provider
24 Pennsylvania port
25 Boxing stats
26 Killer whale
27 Yani Tseng's game
28 Ornamental jug
29 Lanka lead-in
32 Got ready (for)
33 "— diem!"
35 Music booster
36 Actress Ullman
38 "Hammerin' Hank"
39 Sports venue
42 Apple tablet
43 Jazzy James
44 Wedding invitation letters
45 Martian-mobile
46 Tavern
47 Historic time
49 Free (of)

Solution time: 25 mins.

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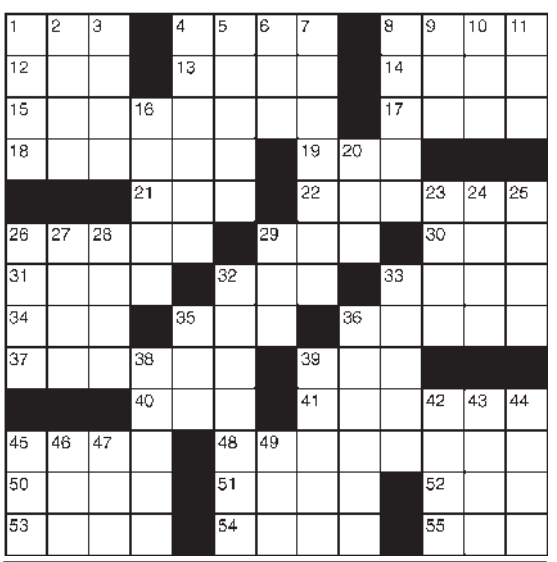
I	I	E		D	O	N	S		I	K	O	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Roddick, 42; Lisa Ling, 51; Cameron Diaz, 52; Michael Chiklis, 61.

Happy Birthday: Be true to yourself and stick to a budget. If you focus on your goals, have faith in what you can accomplish. Don't allow others to waste your time by coercing you to commit to something that will enrich their lives more than yours. Fend for yourself, and don't feel guilty going after your dreams. It's your life, so write the script and play the lead role. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 26, 29, 34, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Buy into something that makes you money, not takes your money. Learn something new, express what you want to pursue and socialize with people already heading in the direction you want to go. Embrace life, love and adventure, and become a part of something you care about.✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look for someone who motivates you or for activities that rejuvenate you. Address domestic or emotional issues that require nurturing, an overhaul or a departure from your current situation. Don't quibble over what's impossible. Size up situations and do what's necessary to achieve peace and happiness. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Try something new; a challenge will exhilarate you, and a change of scenery will point you in a new direction. Attend social events or contact someone you want to get to know better. Love, self-improvement and personal growth are favored, but you must first start the process. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Let your intuition guide you. When in doubt, wait until you feel confident you are doing what's best for you. Refuse to let hype or people pressure you to do something that leaves you feeling stressed and anxious. A creative outlet will ease your mind. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An innovative approach to learning, exploring and changing your lifestyle will spark your imagination and encourage you to try something new and exciting. The people you meet and the information you gather will help transform what you already have going for you into something prosperous and impressive. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change will give you renewed hope and motivate you to initiate your plans. Get involved in something you enjoy doing, and you'll figure out how to bring in extra cash. Believe in yourself and refuse to let anyone discourage you from pursuing your dreams. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Channel your energy into something that helps transform what you don't like or enjoy into something that energizes you. A change that comes from the heart will prompt you to be innovative and to use your imagination to outmaneuver anyone who stands between you and your desires. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Consider your options from beginning to end and get a broader picture of the possibilities. A change may be inviting, but your reasoning must be valid to pursue something you cannot afford. Do the research and map out a long-term plan that suits your budget. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Up your game, look your best and present what you can contribute. An opening will supercharge your imagination and give you the charisma to charm your way past anyone who questions your validity. Refrain from scrimping when it comes to presentation or proving your worth. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You may think you know what you want, but you are better off taking a pass until you look at the logistics and costs involved. Focus on lowering stress and sticking to the people and pastimes you can count on to look out for your best interests. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Follow your heart and set expectations that motivate you to engage in activities conducive to reaching your dreams. Play an active role in what unfolds, leave nothing to chance and don't hesitate to change your mind if necessary. Control the outcome; be a survivor, not a victim. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let anger take over when success is the best revenge. Keep your life simple, your expenses within reason and your mindset on what gives you the edge you need to reach your goal. Discipline and hard work are necessary; don't give anyone else jurisdiction over the outcome. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are invigorating, mindful and deliberate. You are heartfelt and original.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	3	4			
			8		6	2		5
		2						3
8	3					1	5	
7	5			2		9	8	
		1		4			3	9
	4	3	9		7	5	1	
		8	1	5		4		7

Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	3	5	7	9	4	6	1
6	7	9	4	1	8	3	2	5
5	1	4	6	3	2	9	7	8
1	4	2	7	5	3	8	9	6
7	9	5	1	8	6	2	4	3
3	8	6	9	2	4	5	1	7
2	6	7	3	4	5	1	8	9
4	5	1	8	9	7	6	3	2
9	3	8	2	6	1	7	5	4

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/29

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CRUISE PORTS Solution: 7 letters

C	A	N	A	D	A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C
R	A	N	C	H	O	R	A	G	E	M	O	R	W	S
U	N	P	S	W	E	I	V	N	A	E	C	O	I	U
B	T	W	T	U	H	T	G	N	E	L	R	I	A	N
Y	A	D	O	A	I	R	E	G	A	L	A	A	I	O
T	R	R	T	R	I	T	A	M	D	W	N	I	S	T
I	C	A	O	T	C	N	E	N	A	S	S	L	A	P
C	T	O	U	I	O	L	A	H	N	Y	E	A	D	M
K	I	B	R	T	B	L	O	E	D	G	T	R	E	A
R	C	N	S	O	G	B	H	N	L	U	A	T	L	H
O	A	O	U	N	A	T	E	A	D	T	D	S	A	H
Y	B	R	E	R	A	Y	O	Y	K	O	T	U	I	T
W	N	W	T	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	A	D	U
E	E	R	O	P	A	G	N	I	S	H	I	P	E	O
N	E	W	Z	E	A	L	A	N	D	N	A	R	G	S

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Adelaide, Anchorage, Antarctica, Asia, Athens, Australia, Boston, California, Canada, Captain, Crown, Dates, Grand, Hawaii, Hobart, Length, London, Melbourne, New England, New York City, New Zealand, Oceanview, Onboard, Regal, Rome, Ruby, Seattle, Ship, Singapore, Southhampton, Suite, Sun, Sydney, Tokyo, Tours, Vacation, World

Yesterday's Answer: Brenda

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Guardians rally for 7-5 victory over Royals

CLEVELAND (AP)—Rookie Jhonkensy Noel singled home Josh Naylor with the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Cleveland rallied for a win over Kansas City, reclaiming sole possession of first place in the AL Central.

The Guardians trailed 5-2 entering the seventh, but scored four times to take their first lead of the afternoon. Bo Naylor homered off starter Michael Wacha, while Josh Naylor, Will Brennan and Noel had RBI singles against Lucas Erceg (2-4).

Erceg was charged with one run allowed, his first in 12 appearances and 13 1/3 innings since joining the Royals in a July 30 trade with Oakland.

Andrés Giménez tacked on a sacrifice fly in the eighth as Cleveland avoided a four-game sweep in the series. The Guardians and rookie manager Stephen Vogt had been alone atop the Central for 154 days until Kansas City pulled into a tie Tuesday.

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Eli Morgan (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the victory. Emmanuel Clase earned his AL-best 39th save — with his career-high 26th straight conversion—and matched Cody Allen's franchise record with 149.

AP

Cleveland Guardians' Jhonkensy Noel hits a single in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, in Cleveland.

CUBS 14, PIRATES 10

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Christian Bethancourt drove in seven runs, including a go-ahead two-run single in the ninth, as Chicago rallied past Pittsburgh to sweep a three-game series.

The Cubs trailed by seven through six innings before taking advantage of another shaky performance by Pittsburgh's bullpen.

Bethancourt hit a two-run homer in the seventh to start Chicago's surge. The catcher added a two-run double in the eighth and laced a sharp bases-loaded single to left against Pirates closer David Bednar (3-7) to complete the comeback.

Pete Crow-Armstrong had a career-high four hits to boost his batting average over his last 21 games to .341 (26 of 76). Ian Happ chipped in three hits for the Cubs, who scored 41 runs across three games at PNC Park to improve to 17-8 over their last 25 games.

Advertisement

Porter Hodge (3-1) pitched two scoreless innings to become the unlikely winner.

ASTROS 10, PHILLIES 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Houston pitcher Spencer Arrighetti lost his no-hit bid against the NL East-leading Phildelphia when Austin Hays led off the eighth inning with an infield single.

The 24-year-old rookie right-hander struck out nine and walked four without a hit through seven innings. He had thrown 53 of his 86 pitches for strikes. A sixth-round pick in the amateur draft, Arrighetti entered the game 6-11 with a 4.94 ERA and having allowed 112 hits in 116 2/3 innings.

Houston left fielder Mauricio Dubón kept the no-hit bid alive with a leaping catch of Brandon Marsh's fly ball against the wall for the final out of the seventh inning.

Arrighetti was going for the second no-hitter by the Astros this season after Ronal Blanco no-hit Toronto on April 1. Houston has 17 no-hitters in franchise history.

MARINERS 6, RAYS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Victor Robles and Julio Rodríguez each hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning as Seattle beat Tampa Bay.

Randy Arozarena went deep against his former team again and Luis Castillo pitched 5 2/3 solid innings to help the Mariners win two of three in the series. Seattle stayed 3 1/2 games back of first-place Houston in the AL West.

It's the first time the Mariners have won consecutive series since mid-June, when they took three of four from the Chicago White Sox and followed that with a three-game sweep of the Texas Rangers.

Robles and Rodríguez both connected with two outs against lefty reliever Tyler Alexander (5-4), giving the struggling Mariners offense a much-needed boost.

RED SOX 3, BLUE JAYS 0

BOSTON (AP)—Brayan Bello delivered the longest outing of his career, pitching eight innings of two-hit ball on Wednesday night to lead Boston to a victory over Toronto.

Advertisement

Bello (12-6) struck out nine and walked one to pick up just his second win in eight starts since the All-Star break. The 25-year-old righty had only pitched into the eighth inning once in his career previously, and he had never recorded more than 24 outs.

Tyler O'Neill homered, Masataka Yoshida had a three hits, and Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his 25th save.

ATHLETICS 9, REDS 6

CINCINNATI (AP)—Seth Brown hit a pair of home runs, including a go-ahead three-run shot in the eighth, and Oakland beat Cincinnati.

The A's hit four home runs in the game and have homered 166 times this season, seventh-most in the major leagues. Oakland has scored 50.3% of its runs on homers, the highest percentage in the majors.

The Reds had one hit and were trailing 5-0 after six, but scored six runs in the seventh to take the lead on Will Benson's three-run home run.

Advertisement

But Brown's second home run—off Emilio Pagán (3-4)—put the A's ahead to stay 8-6 in the eighth.

NATIONALS 5, YANKEES 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dylan Crews led off the game for the Nationals with his first career homer and later hit an RBI double, and Washington beat the New York Yankees.

Crews, the third-ranked prospect in baseball who debuted on Monday, lifted a high drive to the bullpen in left-center on Carlos Rodón's second pitch. In the fourth inning, Crews hit a 105.8 mph liner for a double to put Washington ahead 5-1 as his family celebrated in the stands.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit his career-best 22nd homer and ninth for the Yankees, lofting a 97 mph fastball down the middle from MacKenzie Gore over the wall in center in the second.

Gore (8-11) worked six solid innings, allowing two runs and six hits. Jose A. Ferrer and Jacob Barnes each pitched a scoreless inning and Kyle Finnegan got out of trouble in the ninth for his 34th save in 38 chances.

Advertisement

BRAVES 5, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Chris Sale won his major league-leading 15th game with six crisp innings, Jorge Soler homered early and threw out a runner at the plate late, and the resurgent Atlanta beat struggling Minnesota.

Sale (15-3) continued his comeback season by stretching his streak of allowing two earned runs or fewer to 14 straight starts. Sale had six strikeouts to match San Diego's Dylan Cease for the major league lead with 197 this year and set a single-season Braves franchise record for a left-hander.

Matt Olson hit an RBI double and Luke Williams added a two-run double in a four-run seventh that broke the game open against Minnesota's beleaguered bullpen and propelled the Braves (73-60) to their ninth win in their last 11 games. They moved within five games of NL East leader Philadelphia, where they conveniently start a four-game series on Thursday night.

Advertisement

BREWERS 5, GIANTS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Freddy Peralta pitched six scoreless innings, William Contreras capped a five-run fifth inning with a two-run homer and Milwaukee hung on to beat San Francisco.

Peralta (9-7) allowed two walks and Thairo Estrada's base hit through five innings as the Brewers built a 5-0 lead. The Giants threatened in the sixth with a two-out single by Tyler Fitzgerald and a walk before Peralta struck out Heliot Ramos and let out a scream as he walked from the mound.

Peralta struck out eight, allowed only two hits and walked three.

CARDINLAS 4, PADRES 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Nolan Arenado drove in Masyn Winn with two outs in the ninth inning lifting St. Louis to a walk-off victory over San Diego.

Winn reached on a single off Robert Suarez (8-2), who came in to pitch the ninth. Rookie Victor Scott II kept the inning alive when he singled Winn to second, before Arenado—who is 13 for 43 in the past 11 games—singled to center.

Advertisement

Ryan Helsley (6-4) pitched one inning for the win.

San Diego's Luis Arraez, who had three hits Tuesday, hit two doubles and two singles in five at-bats. It was his major league-leading sixth four-hit game this season. Manny Machado added two hits and an RBI.

Paul Goldschmidt hit three singles and drove in a run for St. Louis and now has seven hits in 11 at-bats in the series.

TIGERS 3, ANGELS 2

DETROIT (AP)—Spencer Torkelson hit a two-run home run in the 2nd inning and Kerry Carpenter added an RBI single in the third as Detroit extended their winning streak to six games with a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

The teams were forced to wait out a lengthy rain delay at the outset for the second straight night. This time, after a delay of 1 hour, 50 minutes, first pitch took place at 8:30 p.m.

The Tigers moved two games over .500 at 68-66 for the first time since May 7, when they were 19-17.

Los Angeles (54-79) lost its fifth straight game and has dropped 13 of 15.

RANGERS 3, WHITE SOX 1, 1st game RANGERS 4, WHITE SOX 2, 2nd game

CHICAGO (AP)—Travis Jankowski robbed Andrew Vaughn of a game-winning homer with a leaping catch in the ninth inning, and Texas beat the Chicago White Sox for their second victory of the day against the majors' worst team.

Corey Seager had four hits, including a tiebreaking single in the ninth, as Texas improved to 6-0 against Chicago this season. Seager also had an RBI single as the Rangers beat the White Sox 3-1 hours earlier in the resumption of a game suspended Tuesday after just four pitches.

The White Sox (31-103) have lost six in a row and 10 of 11 overall. They are 4-32 since the All-Star break, moving closer to the franchise record of 106 losses in 1970.

ROCKIES 8, MARLINS 2

DENVER (AP)—Kyle Freeland went six innings, Aaron Schunk hit his first major league home run and the Colorado took advantage of four errors to beat Miami.

Nolan Jones hit a pair of RBI singles and Drew Romo added two hits and an RBI for Colorado. Ezequiel Tovar added a two-run double in the bottom of the eighth.

Derek Hill homered for Miami, which fell to 6-15 in its last 21 games.

Freeland (4-6) allowed two runs on six hits and he struck out five with a walk in his 200th career appearance. After surrendering a homer to Hill in the second, he fanned Hill in the fourth for his third of the night and 800th of his career, ranking fourth in franchise history.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, METS 5

PHOENIX (AP)—Corbin Carroll hit a go-ahead grand slam in the eighth inning off Edwin Díaz, part of a two-homer night that lifted Arizona over the New York Mets.

The Diamondbacks trailed 5-4 heading into the eighth, but pulled off a two-out rally against the Mets' closer. Díaz (5-3) entered with a runner on first and promptly walked Pavin Smith and Geraldo Perdomo before Carroll smacked his second homer of the game into the right-field seats.

It was Díaz's sixth blown save of the season.

DODGERS 6, ORIOLES 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teoscar Hernández hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the third inning, Shohei Ohtani went deep leading off the game on his second bobblehead night and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Baltimore.

Ohtani singled and scored in the third and scored again in the fifth, giving the Japanese superstar a career-high 104 runs this season, bettering his mark of 103 set in 2021 with the Los Angeles Angels.

Wimbledon champ Krejcikova out, Shelton, Tiafoe to meet in 3rd round

NEW YORK (AP)— Frances Tiafoe is getting the rematch he wants, a second shot at Ben Shelton at the U.S. Open.

But there won't be a second straight Grand Slam title for Barbora Krejcikova.

The Wimbledon champion was knocked out of the U.S. Open in the second round on Wednesday, defeated by Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-4, 7-5.

The No. 8-seeded Krejcikova won her second Grand Slam singles title this summer, but then she didn't play any matches after the Paris Olympics. She acknowledged last week not knowing where her level of play was.

Turns out, it wasn't good enough.

"I mean, winning Wimbledon is amazing. It's a great, great, great result, I'm very proud about it and how I was able to handle everything there," said Krejcikova, who hadn't played a tournament on hard courts since February.

"I think I was playing quite well, definitely better than in the first match. I think my game was improving, but it just wasn't enough."

No woman has won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in the same year since Serena Williams in 2012.

Tiafoe had short work on the steamiest day of the tournament thus far, with temperatures in New York surpassing 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). Three men's matches ended when an opponent stopped playing, the last one sending defending champion Novak Djokovic to the third round when Laslo Djere retired early in the third set with what appeared to be pain near his hip after they played for more than two hours across the first two sets.

"You know, in the end, not the kind of finish that we players or crowd wants to see, but I think it's probably due to that physical battle that we had in the opening two sets," the No. 2-seeded Djokovic said.

Tiafoe, the No. 20 seed, won the first two sets before his opponent, Alexander Shevchenko, retired after the first game of the third set.

Shelton, the No. 13 seed, later beat Roberto Bautista Agut 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. He ousted Tiafoe last year in the quarterfinals, stopping Tiafoe from what would have been a second straight trip to the U.S. Open semifinals.

"Obviously he's very much like me in how excited and energetic he is on the court," Tiafoe said, "and has such a big game and big shots and serves big and gets the crowd going."

AP

Ben Shelton, of the United States, reacts after defeating Roberto Bautista Agut, of Spain, during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, in New York.

Well, maybe not quite as well as Tiafoe does.

"I know that the people love him here. Probably more than me. He's electric here," the 21-year-old Shelton said.

"It will be a battle. It will be a war just like the last two times we've played. Yeah, I'm more than excited to be out there with him again."

They were two of the four American men to reach the third round in the bottom half of the draw. No. 12 Taylor Fritz got there by beating Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-1, while Brandon Nakashima beat Arthur Cazaux and will next play No. 18 Lozenzo Musetti, the bronze medalist at the Olympics.

Defending champion Coco Gauff marched into the third round on the women's side with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Tatjana Maria. The No. 3 seed will next face No. 27 seed Elina Svitolina.

Ruse, a 26-year-old from Romania, advanced to the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time and will play No. 26 seed Paula Badosa, who eliminated American Taylor Townsend 6-3, 7-5.

Jiri Lehecka ignored the heat to engineer the biggest comeback of his career, rallying to beat Mitchell Krueger 6-7 (5), 0-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in a match that finished a minute shy of four hours. Lehecka, the No. 32 seed, not only came from two sets down for the first time in his career, but he was even down 3-0 in the third set against the American qualifier.

"I kind of dug back into the match with a big fight, and then the fourth set and fifth set was just a battle and we were both fighting for every point," Lehecka said.

He will face No. 6 seed Andrey Rublev, who also came from two sets down to outlast Arthur Rinderknech 4-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

Past U.S. Open finalists Aryna Sabalenka and Alexander Zverev both won their matches in straight sets, while Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen, the No. 7 seed, rallied passed Erika Andreeva in three sets. But No. 12 Daria Kasatkina was upset by American Peyton Stearns, who will next face No. 24 seed and Olympic silver medalist Donna Vekic.

Another women's third-round match will see No. 14 seed Madison Keys against No. 33 Elise Mertens. Keys, the 2017 runner-up in Flushing Meadows, rolled past Maya Joint 6-4, 6-0, while Mertens knocked out Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3, 6-2.

Djokovic reaches 3rd round after opponent stops in 3rd set due to injury

NEW YORK (AP)—A U.S. Open match that Novak Djokovic already expected to be difficult was threatening to become a toss-up as he struggled with his serve.

Missing more than he made, Djokovic couldn't get many quick points Wednesday night. He acknowledged that he should have lost the second set, and if his opponent didn't get injured and have to stop, maybe he wouldn't even have won that match.

Once he had, the defending champion was only looking ahead.

"The matches are only going to get tougher from here. I know that, but I'm fine," Djokovic said. "I'll find my way, as I have done many times in my career."

Djokovic reached the third round when Laslo Djere had to retire with the No. 2 seed leading his Serbian countryman 6-4, 6-4, 2-0.

Djere was leading 4-2 in the second set when he appeared to be troubled by pain near his hip and was visited by a trainer later in the set. He finished that set, which lasted 69 minutes after the first one went 60, but didn't last much longer.

AP

Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, returns a shot to Laslo Djere, of Serbia, during a second round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, in New York.

"In the end, not the kind of finish that we players or crowd wants to see, but I think it's probably due to that physical battle that we had in the opening two sets," Djokovic said.

It was the 90th win at the U.S. Open for Djokovic, making him the first man to reach that total at all four Grand Slams. The 24-time major champion will play No. 28 seed Alexei Popyrin on Friday.

Djere was the only player to win a set against Djokovic at last year's U.S. Open, grabbing the first two in their third-round encounter before Djokovic rallied.

"So I knew coming into the match that if I don't serve well, which was the case, I'm going to have to really grind and work for my points a lot," Djokovic said. "That's what I guess caused the two sets to be played over two hours."

Djokovic made only 47% of his first serves and appeared to be struggling physically himself earlier in the match, which was just his second since winning the gold medal in the Olympics.

Djere had two chances to break Djokovic's serve for would have given him a 5-2 lead in the second set. Instead, he wouldn't win another game, with Djokovic breaking to win the set when Djere yanked a forehand out of bounds.

"All in all, of course, I have to be happy with the win," Djokovic said, "and happy that in important moments I managed to play one ball more than him over the net, I guess find the right shots or anticipate well as I did in the set point in the second set."

670 Gravity leaps to first win

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

670 Gravity leaped to its first win in the debut of the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024 Masters Division last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

They won via a blowout, 88-55, over Lakay.

The game started off as neck-and-neck with the first 3 points for both teams out of the way to start the game. But 670 Gravity's help from outside the perimeter gave them the edge

It became evident later throughout the game that 670 Gravity's team was more explosive on the court and by the end of the second quarter, they sported a 13-point lead, 40-27.

Richard Peredo, Benedict Villocero, Dick Tibayan, and Mark Matuguina created tough plays and executed their shots to lead 670 Gravity into an even bigger advantage after halftime. It seemed like the short break didn't help Lakay at all as 670 Gravity continued to pile on the baskets and after the penultimate quarter, they were in a 24-point hole, 37-61.

Meljune Capalad and Dhanskie Saludo were the duo that led Lakay as the rest of the team's production was minimal. They tried their best to get the ball moving and sink in some shots, but 670 Gravity's defense was just too tough to crack.

Toward the end of the fourth quarter, Lakay's 3-pointers came too little too late as 670 Gravity's lead ballooned into a 33 points, 88-55.

In the end, Peredo led with 19 points, while Villocero contributed 13, and Tibayan and Matuguina put up 11 each. On the other hand, Capalad scored 14, while Saludo was the only other player in double digits with 11.

Last Tuesday, Tsingtao JTM slipped past UMI, 62-55, while HBR took down One n Win, 66-42.

There is a masters division and a semi-open division for the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024. Games are played Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Satrudays at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

In the masters division, the teams include 670 Gravity, Tsingtao JTM, UMI, HBR, One n Win, Century Insurance, L-Champions, and Lakay.

The semi-open teams are Team Alliana's, Alsa Baso, SMJ, Lakay, One Pacific, UMI, Swishas, and Unity Trade.

670 Gravity 88 – Peredo 19, Villocero 13, Tibayan 11, Matuguina 11, Lumanlan 9, Ege 8, Echaure 6, Santiago 5, Estolas 2, Tumintin 2.

Lakay 55 – Capalad 14, Saludo 11, Palermo 6, Isip 5, Jose 5, Solis 5, Devera 5.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 40-27, 61-37, 88-55.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

670 Gravity poses for a group photo after their debut in the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024 Masters Division last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

4 STARZ

From page 20

Holdings, 25-20, and 25-21 over PIC Block Party.

4 Starz's roster includes Nak Nakashima, Ko Kumuch, Yohei Iwashita, Alfredo Guevarra, En Yang Pang, Marc Danga, Isael Saito, Jason Limes, Uwen Cholymay, Trevor Ogumoro, and Nito Calimag.

Bench Warmers first won over Fall Guys, 25-20; solidified their fifth win as they drowned Bikini Bangers, 25-19; and bagged their sixth win as they beat Black Label, 25-14.

Bench Warmers is made up of Mokyang Kim, Jia Hao Yang, T.J. Saures, Omari Joab, Dwight Crisostomo, Kyle Kramer, Kyle Moon, Jasper Hall, Minsoo Kwon, Seth Tababa, and Seth Hong.

In other results, the Bikini Bangers took down Black Label, 25-21; Agape 1 overpowered Tan Holdings, 25-10; Fall Guys held on to win over Chura, 25-23; Agape 2 defeated Tan Holdings 25-16; Rice Crackers beat Agape 1, 25-18; Agape 2 edged PIC Block Party, 25-20; Chura ousted Black Label, 25-17; and PIC Block Party turned Oasis upside down, 25-16.

Behind 4 Starz are Tan Holdings at an even 4-4; Agape 2 has a 3-4 stint; and PIC Block Party have won one out of eight games.

Bikini Bangers are behind Bench Warmers at 5-2; Chura is at 4-3; Fall Guys are next with 3-4; and Black Label haven't won a game with eight losses.

And Agape 1 is at 5-3 behind The Bomba; Rice Crackers are 3-4; and Oasis have won one and lost seven.

This Saturday, Aug. 31, are the playoffs and championship round for both the men's and women's divisions.

4 Starz is a volleyball group that was formed last year, with an homage to its president's—Nak Nakashima's roots from the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan—hence the four stars within the sun of Japan's flag in their logo. The four stars represent the four states—Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap.

BLUE

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then went on a tear in the second half that ultimately solidified a bigger lead for them, 47-39, at the end of the third quarter.

Win Pacific's Webb Alano did all that he could with Matthew Peters to get back in the game, and the fourth quarter was a much closer matchup. In the end though, a crucial field goal followed by free throws by Tibayan sealed their win by just three points, 55-51.

Ragbonshe won the Player of the Game last Friday with his 23 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal, 4 assists, and 2 blocks. Tibayan was right behind at 19 points.

Alano contributed 20 points to Win Pacific's losing fight, while Peters put up 14, and Bernard Sabino scored 6.

Last Saturday, Blue Haus' Ibrahim Ibrahola was awarded Player of the Game after he scored 8 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, had 4 steals, 3 assists, and 2 blocks.

In the other game last Friday, Hardt Eye Clinic won their third straight game, 59-55, over JTM Corp. The best player for that game was Hardt Eye's Letrell Pelisamen with 8 points, 13 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists, and 9 blocks.

In the other game last Saturday, Hardt Eye Clinic won their fourth win in as many games, 61-54, over Win Pacific Corp. Lucas Esdrelong of Hardt Eye won Player of the Game with 7 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists, and 2 blocks.

Hardt Eye leads the standings with their four wins; Blue Haus is at 3-1; Win Pacific has an even 2-2 record; and J.T.M. Corp. have yet to win with four losses.

Blue Haus 55 – Ragbonshe 23, Tibayan 19, Y. Sapo 4, Lucero 3, S. Sapo 2, Viesca 2, Surima 2.

Win Pacific 51 – Alano 20, Peters 14, Sabino 6, Lopez 6, Rectitud 3, Domingo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-9, 23-27, 47-39, 55-51.

SHANE

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in third with his 40 points.

"It was a nice sunny and really hot day that made for a great finale to our season. The track was dry for the most part but not super dusty because of the rain that's been happening at the beginning of the week. It was nice to have a dry track where we can really go fast because the last two races were really muddy and slippery. It made for some exciting battles all around to end the season," said Alvarez.

He also commended MRA for combining all the classes in the last two rounds of the 2024 season as it made it a lot more exciting with more riders on the track.

"I love riding and racing and I always give my all on the track. I try to be as smooth but aggressive as possible every lap and if I see an opportunity to pass, I take it. The track is really fun because you can take many lines to attempt a pass when battling. I'd like to dedicate my win for in finale to my sponsors and my friends and family that support me. I owe all thanks to God for keeping me and everyone else safe throughout the year and also to my dad, Cuki Alvarez, as he's my mentor, training partner, and mechanic all rolled into one and none of this would be possible without his help year in and year out," said the younger Alvarez.

He also dedicated his win to his son, Styles Justis Shane Jr., as well as sponsors Trench Tech Racing, 4evercnmi, Cycles Plus Guam, and the whole MRA board and community "for making this possible and a blast for the past four years!"

The younger Alvarez said he practice as much as four times a month depending on the weather and other factors. He also took note that his Round 8 win is his last race as a 30-year-old as he turns 31 soon.

Next up for Alvarez after the 2024 season is to defend his title for the TurkeyCross against Guam in November.

Billie Inabo Pangelinan, meanwhile, proved to all and sundry that she's in a class by herself by topping again the Women's Class with another perfect score of 50 points while riding her Yamaha 250f. Mari Alvarez was second with her 42 points, while Sheanna Pangelinan wound up third with the same 42 points but finished third in the second heat.

"It was a sunny day and the course was dry and slippery. I would like to dedicate this win to everyone who had helped and guided me throughout my experience with this sport! I would like to thank my team's sponsors, Ralph DLG Torres (tent donations), Guy Pudney (MARPAC drink donations), Inas Kitchen, YCO True Value, 670 Rock Steady, TurnKey solutions, and the ERICCO Racing team," said Pangelinan, a student at Saipan Southern High School.

In the Power Puff Girls, Miyako Celis slaid once more with 50 points, followed by Hiromi Sasamoto and Kesiil Camacho with 44 and 40 points, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Billie Inabo Pangelinan in action in the Women's Class of Round 8 of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	78	56	.582	–
Baltimore	77	57	.575	1
Boston	69	64	.519	8½
Tampa Bay	66	67	.496	11½
Toronto	65	70	.481	13½
Central Division				
Cleveland	76	58	.567	–
Kansas City	75	59	.560	1
Minnesota	72	61	.541	3½
Detroit	68	66	.507	8
Chicago	31		.231	45
West Division				
Houston	71	62	.534	–
Seattle	68	66	.507	3½
Texas	62	71	.466	9
Oakland	58	75	.436	13
Los Angeles	54	79	.406	17

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	78	55	.586	–
Atlanta	73	60	.549	5
New York	69	64	.519	9
Washington	61	73	.455	17½
Miami	48	85	.361	30
Central Division				
Milwaukee	76	56	.576	–
Chicago	68	66	.507	9
St. Louis	66	67	.496	10½
Cincinnati	63	70	.474	13½
Pittsburgh	62	71	.466	14½
West Division				
Los Angeles	79	54	.594	–
Arizona	76	57	.571	3
San Diego	76	59	.563	4
San Francisco	67	67	.500	12½
Colorado	50	84	.373	29½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guardians rally for 7-5 victory over Royals.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

670 Gravity leaps to first win.

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4 Starz, Bench Warmers, The Bomba atop v-ball Fall Fest

LEIGH GASES

Bench Warmers' Dwight Crisostomo goes for a kill over Bikini Bangers players during the debut of the Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 last Monday at the Agape Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

4 Starz, Bench Warmers, and The Bomba are atop the men's division standings of the Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 as of last Wednesday at the Agape Gymnasium.

4 Starz sports an undefeated record of six wins and no losses in Pool C; Bench Warmers sit atop Pool A with a 6-1 record; and The Bomba have exploded onto the scene with a 7-1 record.

First, The Bomba won their seventh game with a close call against Agape 2, 27-25; then broke Rice Crackers, 25-20; and wrapped it up with a sinking of Oasis, 25-14.

The Bomba's rotation consists of K.C. Nuyles, Jerome Manzon, John Matias, Jermaine Salas, Bernard Villagomez, Merrick Toves, Frankie Satur, Clarence Rodriguez, and Joseph Ito.

4 Starz then won over Tan

See 4 STARZ on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

An Agape 2 player cocks back for a kill as Tan Holdings players goes up to attempt a block during the debut of the Inaugural 4 Starz Fall Fest Volleyball Tournament 2024 last Monday at the Agape Gymnasium.

Blue Haus wins 2 in a row

LEIGH GASES

Blue Haus' Christopher Viesca goes for a contested jumper during their game against Win Pacific last Friday in the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Player of the Game on Game 1 last Friday, Blue Haus' Onick Ragbonshe, attempts a 3-pointer against a Win Pacific defender in the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Blue Haus notched two wins in a row in the continuation of the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 last Friday and Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

They first took on Win Pacific Corp. and won by a close 55-51 final, while they enjoyed a 10-point, 53-43 win over JTM Corp. last Saturday.

In the game against Win Pacific, Blue Haus enjoyed a 12-9 lead at the end of the first quarter from buckets by the duo of Dane Tibayan and Onick Ragbonshe.

However, Win Pacific bounced back quickly in the second quarter as they got into the groove of their plays and forced turnovers which they converted into fast-break plays. By the end of the first half, the tides changed as Win Pacific boasted a 27-23 lead.

Ragbonshe and Tibayan

See BLUE on Page 19

Shane, Billie finish with a flourish

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez and Billie Inabo Pangelinan capped the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series with a flourish after dominating anew their divisions in Round 8 last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park.

Aboard his 2023 Kawasaki 250F, Alvarez topped the Expert Class by winning both heats for 50 points. Coming in second to the 30-year-old Financial & Insurance Services Group staff was Marianas Racing Association president Ellery Cruz with 42 points, while Corry Pangelinan came

See SHANE on Page 19

MIA GUERRERO

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in action in the Exprt Class of Round 8 of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park.